Burmese pro-democracy leader unhurt, says UN envoy

Story on PAGE A11

End of the world 50-50 probability?

PAGHANDAAN NA NATIN YUNG FINAL JUDGMENT!

LOS ANGELES—This is the way the world might end: A genetically engineered pathogen is released, debris from an erupting "supervolcano" blocks the sun or scientists in the

END/ A20

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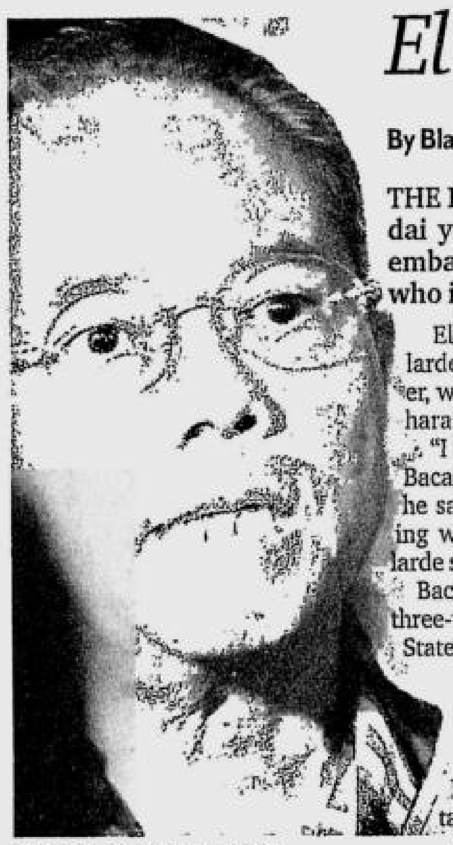
Velarde: Bacani a victim

El Shaddai head gives unconditional support



VELARDE: It's incredible.

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FOUNDER of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai yesterday expressed "unconditional support" for its embattled spiritual adviser, Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr., who is accused of sexually harassing his former secretary.

El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde said Bacani, not his accuser, was the victim of "incredible harassment."

"I firmly believe that Bishop Bacani is telling the truth when he said that he had done nothing wrong against anyone," Velarde said in a statement.

Bacani left the other day for a three-week vacation in the United States amid accusations that he tried to hug and kiss his former secretary. The woman has filed a complaint before Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, Vatican's representative in the country.

"If ever, it is his openness and availability to help and extend support to someone in need that was maliciously misread," Velarde said.

Velarde said Catholic leaders and the laity should offer prayers and "all forms of encouragement" to Bacani, bishop of the Diocese of Novaliches in Metro Manila.

That was what the clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila did yesterday at Villa San Miguel, residence of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin in Mandaluyong City.

At a closed-door meeting, Bishop Socrates Villegas led some 200 diocesan and religious priests in praying for guidance for the Catholic Church, for Bacani and for his accuser.

Fr. Robert Reyes, who attended the meeting at Villa San Miguel, said the gathering "was a frank discussion about how it (the scandal) is affecting all of us priests and what we ought to do about it."

"It was rather sad," Msgr. Jesus Romulo-Rañada, Bacani's spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview when asked about the atmosphere at the presbyterial meeting, a regular gathering of priests usually held at the end of the month.

But Rañada said he was happy with the "show of support" from the Archdiocese of Manila. The priests of the archdiocese have decided to write Bacani a letter of support, although members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines have yet to issue one.

Rañada was invited to the gathering to give the priests a "briefing" on reports concerning Bacani, which a priest in Iloilo said were adversely affecting the Church.

"It maligned the bishop and hurt the Church," said Fr. Meliton Oso, the director of the social action center, and one of the outspoken priests in the Archdiocese of Jaro.

Velarde said the "attacks" on Bacani were also attacks on the clergy and on "our Holy Mother Church."

The El Shadai leader said he had known Bacani not only as an adviser to the El Shaddai community but also as family confessor and advisor.

He recalled that he had confided his personal troubles and concerns to Bacani since 1988. "And whenever he gets into the same predicament he does not keep it

VELARDE/ A22

SIN: Silence under fire.

Woman accuser feeling sorry for bishop

THE WOMAN who has accused Bishop Teodoro Bacani of inappropriate sexual behavior is now feeling sorry for him, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes told the INQUIRER last night.

"She's sorry that she can't control what has been coming out in the media about Bishop Bacani," added Reyes, who was among the first persons who learned about the sexual harassment case raised against the bishop by his 34-year-old former secretary.

"But she has entrusted the case to the Church,"Reyes said.

He told the INQUIRER that the complainant is now undergoing psycho-spiritual counseling with a psycho-therapist who specializes in problems dealing with the religious.

"She's in good hands and is handling everything well. She's settling down, clarifying the issues in her own mind to make her own decisions," Reyes said.

Although Reyes, more popularly known as the "running priest," refused to divulge the whereabouts of the complainant, he said the woman in question was not in hiding and was free to move around.

"So much has been written about her, mostly negative. She has been unfairly projected by the media. Contrary to what has been said about her, she's not a whiner. She's a charming lady,"Reyes said even as he expressed full support for Bacani.

In a phone interview, Father Reyes, also told the INQUIRER that Sister Cletha Baay, to whom the complainant had first revealed her ordeal in the hands of an allegedly affectionate bishop had accompanied the complainant to him for help on March 28.

"She was confused and didn't know what to do. I was only trying to help both sides to do things properly," Reyes said.

But he clarified that "whatever decision the complainant had come up to was her own, nobody pressured her from doing or saying anything. It was all up to her."

"Unlike in the case of Christine **(Bishop Yalung's girlfriend-Ed)**, she was helped right away. so, she had time to reflect, to pray and

WOMAN/ A22

Tongue-lashing on nationwide TV prompts LTO chief to act

By Amy R. Remo
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE CHIEF of the Land Transportation Office blew hot and cold yesterday after receiving a public tongue-lashing televised nationwide from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As a result, fixers will find it difficult to do business at the LTO, said its chief, Roberto Lastimoso. He said that he had ordered stricter security in the premises. He also said he was reviewing the performance of the security agency and would replace it if found incompetent.

Lastimoso pledged that the LTO would be stricter than usual with office transactions and with its personnel, as ordered by the President.

But earlier in the day, the former chief of the Philippine National Police said the President had been given wrong information and should not have lost her

TONGUE-LASHING/ A19

Estrada wants GMA, Davide on witness stand

By Armand N. Nocum

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada has asked the Sandiganbayan to put President Macapagal-Arroyo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and five others on the witness stand, triggering a legal debate on whether sitting presidents or chief justices can be summoned to court.

Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia yesterday filed a motion before the anti-graft court asking that Ms Macapagal, Davide, Justices Artemio Panganiban, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. be summoned to testify on his client's supposed illegal ouster.

The Sandiganbayan ordered the police to bring Estrada to court on June 16 for a formal hearing on the motion, which Chief Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was quick to dismiss as another legal ploy to forestall the resumption on June 30 of the ousted President's plunder trial.

Villa-Ignacio said the defense "should know that GMA and Davide are exempt from court processes."

"It's a public policy," he said.

But lawyer Renato Bocar, spokesperson of the Sandiganbayan legal division, said there was "no statutory prohibition" on the appearance in court of the President or other high officials.

"The laws and rules of court have no expressed prohibition for the compulsory process of subpoena," Bocar said.

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye denounced Paguia's motion as a "crude attempt—pure and simple—to muddle the issues and delay the prosecution" of Estrada.

ESTRADA/ A21

Public urged: Stop feasting on sex scandal, wait for probe

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo admonished Filipinos yesterday to stop feasting on a sex scandal involving Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr.

The Vatican is investigating allegations that Bacani had made sexual advances on a woman employed by his Novaliches diocese. The Church has said he could be defrocked if found guilty.

"The best we can do now is to wait for the result of the Vatican's investigation rather than feasting maliciously on this issue," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

She urged Filipinos to give the bishop, on an extended vacation in the United States, "a time for peace" with his relatives there.

"This is no time for speculations," she added.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the sex scandal should at least be a "lesson" to men of the cloth to be more culturally sensitive in dealing with members of their flock.

PUBLIC/ A22

GMA vows to build enduring peace in Mindanao

MALACANANG PHOTO

SIX days in Mindanao for President Macapagal starts in Davao City.

By Juliet Javellana *in Manila*
and the PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo started her six-day working trip to Mindanao yesterday by re-committing her administration to ending armed conflict in the country's second largest island.

But just two hours before Ms Macapagal's plane touched down at the Davao International Airport, soldiers clashed with New People's Army rebels in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

And the Moro Islamic Liberation Front marked her arrival by announcing they would not extend their unilateral ceasefire beyond midnight tonight unless the government also stops fighting.

In her arrival statement, delivered near the site where a bomb killed 21 people and injured over a hundred on March 4, Ms Macapagal called on the MILF to "show clean hands by purging its ranks

GMA VOWS/ A19

Drilon: She's definitely not out of race

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Carlito Pablo

SENATE President Franklin Drilon said yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo may run in 2004 after all—even as members of the ruling coalition say their choice of standard-bearer was now a toss-up between her and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

But in her arrival statement in Davao City at the start of a six-day swing through Mindanao, Ms Macapagal hinted she was not running.

"I regard the remaining year of my administration as a unique window of opportunity for building the foundations of an enduring framework of principled peace and development," she said.

At the Focap forum in Makati City, Drilon said Ms Macapagal may yet change her mind.

"The fact that she has not slammed down her allies in (the ruling) Lakas (party) who keep on egging her to run, and that she (has) adopted a no-comment answer to many of the questions raised on this issue—to me, these are indications that she is in the process of examining her options," said Drilon.

Good economic and poll numbers may make her throw her hat in the ring, Ms Macapagal's close ally told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

When pressed for a categorical answer, Drilon said: "She has repeatedly said that she does not want to run. In my view, at this point, while she's not made a decision to throw her hat into the political ring in 2004, I believe that she's examining her options."

DRILON/ A21

WAITING FOR ULLA EDWIN BACASMAS

Joy Ulla, wife of the last Sipadan hostage who was in captivity for three years, continues to wait for her husband Roland who's still in military custody a week after he had escaped his captors. *Story on Page A7.*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes group of islands will have cloudy skies with rains while Visayas and Mindanao will be mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/11/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA wants OIC to have blast suspect's dossier

YUNOS

AP

By Aquiles Z. Zonio, *PDI Mindanao Bureau,* **Philip Tubeza and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday directed authorities to furnish the Organization of Islamic Conference the case dossier of Saifullah Yunos, the main suspect in the Rizal Day bombings three years ago.

Yunos reportedly confessed being a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front member and of plotting with the terrorist network Jemaah Islamiah to conduct the bombings, which killed at least 22 persons all over Metro Manila.

"This development confirms the thread of conspiracy that runs across our immediate neighborhood in Southeast Asia, linking up to the same terrorist lairs that are now being subject to punitive operations by our armed forces," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal said the development should open the eyes of the Islamic world about the MILF, which the government had accused of staging recent bombings in Mindanao.

"I must reemphasize the need for the MILF to show clean hands by purging its ranks of bombers and murderers," the President said.

"We cannot have a principled peace if one side is contaminated with the stigma of terrorism, which is now as clear as day," she said.

Twenty-two people were killed and dozens wounded during the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Yunos was captured on May 25 in Cagayan de Oro City while about to board a Manila-bound plane.

Yunos admitted his participation in the Rizal Day bombings during police interrogation.

He also disclosed that MILF had ties with the JI, tagged as a regional terror group with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, and with the suspects in last year's bomb attack in Bali, Indonesia.

MILF spokesperson EidKabalu said the claim that MILF had links with the JI was a recycled issue.

He said a revolutionary organization like the MILF which was fighting for a legitimate cause would not resort to terrorism to achieve its end.

The MILF had disowned Yunos, saying he was never a member of the rebel group or its special operations arm.

Kabalu said in a phone interview Yunos applied to be accepted as an MILF combatant after his return from a military training in Pakistan shortly before ousted President Estrada launched his "all-out war" against Mindanao rebel groups in 2000.

"But his application was immediately rejected by brother (Ebrahim) Murad," Kabalu said.

Murad is the MILF vice chair for military affairs.

Kabalu said he was not aware of the reasons for Murad's rejection of Yunos' application.

Also yesterday, self-confessed JI member Fathur Al-Ghozi admitted being party to the bomb attack on the car of the Philippine ambassador to Jakarta in August 2000.

Al-Ghozi was invited yesterday to a preliminary hearing at the Department of Justice in Manila on the bombing, which injured then-Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday and killed several others. Al-Ghozi faces frustrated murder charges which the police filed in behalf of Caday.

Among the evidence that were presented was Al-Ghozi's confession, contained in a four-page sworn statement, made at the PNP-Intelligence Group's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office in Camp Crame on May 27.

Al-Ghozi said his accomplices in the bombing were Usman Al-Abas, who parked the red Isuzu van containing explosives outside Caday's home, and a ceratin Abdul Jabar.

He said the bombing was in retaliation for the government's attack on the MILF's Camp Abubakar in Mindanao. He also said that JI leader Riduan Isamudin, alias Hambali, and a certain Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana, financed the operation.

Al-Ghozi had earlier admitted to having participated in the Rizal Day bombings and is serving 10 to 12 years in prison here after he was arrested for illegal possession of explosives.

With a report from Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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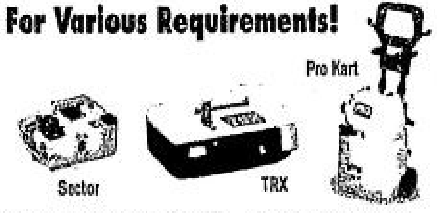

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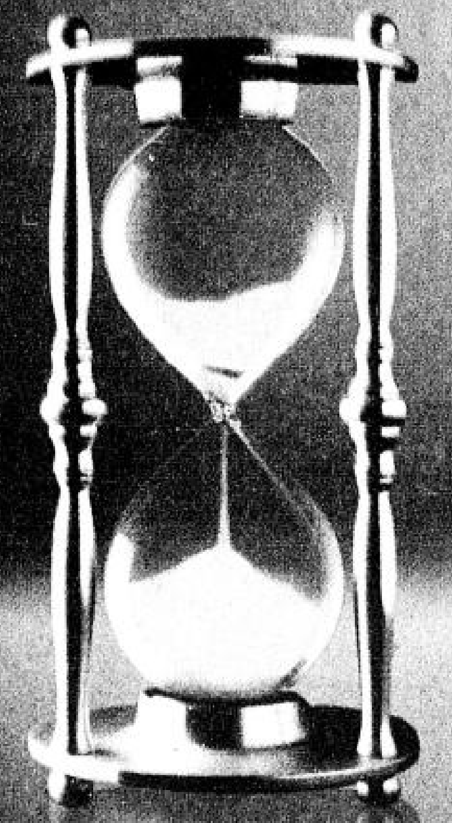

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US advisers confined to barracks for Balikatan

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

UNITED STATES military "advisers" who will take part in the Philippine-US Balikatan 03-01 joint military exercises in Zamboanga City will most likely be confined to their barracks during the entire length of the war games, and not join patrols as they did in Basilan.

"We don't want the Americans to be on the field. It will be done quite differently from Basilan," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, vice chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, at the weekly Bulong Pulungan at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Garcia said while US troops joined Filipino soldiers at the battalion and even down to the company levels during the exercises in Basilan, "they will not be allowed to come as close" in the Balikatan 03-01.

"They will be far from harm's way," Garcia said. "No American will be deployed for combat in Mindanao."

Garcia said the terms of reference for the Balikatan 03-01 were "taking some time to refine and finalize."

Garcia added that the Balikatan 03-01 would most likely start in December this year after American military advisers completed the "security assistance training" of Filipino troops assigned to participate in the war games.

He said a total of 300 soldiers of the Philippine Scout Rangers and Special Forces were receiving training from US Special Forces in Zamboanga City in preparation for Balikatan 03-01.

"These are our elite troops, fully equipped and outfitted," Garcia told the INQUIRER. He further described them as the best of the Scout Rangers and Special Forces.

Garcia said a total of three Light Reaction Companies (LRCs) from the units would be trained for Balikatan 03-01. The 11 infantry battalions deployed in Mindanao would also be trained, he added.

The training of the LRCs, funded by the United States, would cost of $25 million, he said.

"Balikatan 03-01 will have to wait until the security assistance training is completed in December," Garcia said. "The war games might start at the end of the year."

Senators, local leaders in Mindanao and civil society groups have opposed a proposal to hold the Balikatan 03-01 in Sulu due to the strong anti-American sentiment in the predominantly Muslim island-province where the Abu Sayyaf has a strong following.

Also yesterday, the fisherfolk group Pamalayaka said the movie, "Operation Balikatan," was a propaganda piece meant to produce a positive public image for the bilateral military exercises between the country and the US.

Pamalakaya earlier asked Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to pull out the movie from the ongoing Manila Film Festival. But Atienza dismissed the group's apprehensions over the Eddie Garcia-starrer as a "non-issue."

"That's not true. The movie appears like an advance teaser for the forthcoming Balikatan exercises to be staged in Sulu this year. Worse, the film endorses the entry of US troops in the country," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

The movie's cast is headed by award-winning actor-director Eddie Garcia and includes Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, Patricia Javier and American actors Christian Boeving, Nate Adams and Davee Youngblood. The film will be shown from June 11 to 24 as Manila celebrates Independence Day and the anniversary of the Araw ng Maynila. *With Norman Bordadora*

Dead in the water, Drilon says of US bases in RP

By Michael Lim Ubac

DEAD in the water.

Thus said Senate President Franklin Drilon in stressing that the Senate would block any renewed attempt to grant basing rights to United States troops.

Drilon yesterday told members of the Foreign Correspondents Association (Focap) during a forum in Makati City that the upper house would not ratify a treaty allowing the permanent presence of US soldiers in the country.

"There are not enough senators to support (such) a treaty," Drilon said. "There is no way to base US troops without a treaty and we will not ratify it."

He repeatedly assured Focap members that, for as long as he was the Senate president, he would not allow anybody to trample upon the Constitutional ban on foreign troops on Philippine soil.

America has maintained no permanent military base in Southeast Asia since 1992, when the Philippine Senate refused to extend the RP-US Bases treaty.

After the closure of the nearly 100-year-old Clark and Subic bases, the US has used Singapore as a logistics hub for warships moving from the Pacific Ocean to the Persian Gulf.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had earlier ruled out the possibility that US troops at present stationed in Okinawa, Japan would be redeployed to the country.

Reyes said that the Philippine situation had not changed.

"(There will be) no permanent basing of US forces here. The United States is aware of our constitutional constraints. No permanent basing of troops," said Reyes after meeting with Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command.

Drilon explained that agreements with the United States—the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), which allowed joint military exercises between US and Filipino troops, the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and the Mutual Logistic Support Agreement—did not authorize permanent basing of US forces in the country.

He said he would support Balikatan exercises as long as they were temporary in nature.

"Any visit of a permanent nature, or any indication of permanency will run afoul of the Constitutional ban," he said.

Drilon confirmed yesterday that Balikatan 03-1 had not taken off the ground because of "disagreements" on the scope and framework of the military exercise.

He did not deny that top US defense officials were pushing for some form of basing rights for US troops.

He disclosed that Ms Macapagal was against the idea.

No portfolio yet for Nani but he's in the Cabinet

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged Secretary Hernani Braganza among the Cabinet members who joined her in Davao City at the start of her eight-day trip to Mindanao, but she did not say what post the former congressman and press secretary now occupies.

The position of Braganza remained unclear more so because Jose Ma. "Joey" Rufino, whom Braganza is supposed to replace, told the INQUIRER yesterday that no less than the President told him he will stay on as presidential adviser on political affairs and national executive director of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

"She called me last (Monday) night and informed me that I will stay on the job," Rufino said.

It was earlier reported that Braganza would replace Rufino because the latter had some health problems. Braganza, a former congressman, took leave as press secretary allegedly due to a turf war with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

The President, in her arrival speech in Davao, mentioned Braganza after Tiglao.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye initially dodged questions if Braganza had resumed his post but later said Braganza attended the Cabinet meeting in Davao as press secretary.

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Top government leaders, heads of industry, academicians, scientists, health professionals and prominent figures in various disciplines are expected to attend the three-day convention.

Beyond the scientific and medical aspect, other issues on SARS include the economy, tourism, air travel, private enterprise, overseas employment, education, local government, border protection, informatics, Filipino inventions, and various other topics of interest. As such, the conference will feature lectures by top officials of the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Education, Department of Tourism, and other agencies.

Apart from the actual sessions, anti-SARS products and services by private corporations shall be showcased through a trade fair and displayed at exhibit stands within the World Trade Center for the duration of the conference. Funds for the battle against SARS shall be raised through a telethon to be aired by the different television networks.

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(March 17 - June 10, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	88
total discharged	84
presently admitted (June 10, 2003)	3
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

SARS HOTLINES: 741-7048 / 743-1937 or Type MED<space>SARS then send to 2333 for Globe subscribers or 257 for Smart users or text HOTLINE SARS <space> (Message) then send to 2960 or EMAIL sars@doh.gov.ph

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RP to spend P144 M for Iraq peacekeepers

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE GOVERNMENT will be spending P144 million for a 75-strong peacekeeping force to be deployed in Iraq in two batches this month, according to Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, vice chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Garcia said the members of the contingent—50 from the AFP and 25 from the Philippine National Police—shall be receiving $500 in monthly allowance or roughly $15 per day.

The rest of the P144 million fund shall be spent on medicines, gear and equipment, Garcia told the weekly Bulong Pulungan at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

"Sustenance will be provided by the Central Command of the US," Garcia said. This shall include food, shelter and transportation. Garcia said advanced party from the peacekeeping mission shall leave on June 15, to be followed by the main group at the end of the month.

The US shall shoulder transportation of the Filipino soldiers and policemen in and out of Iraq, and in and out of the Philippines.

The US financial assistance to the Philippine peace mission was covered by the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement between the US and the Philippines, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople.

The task force on Philippine participation in post-war rebuilding of Iraq, which is headed by Ople, had submitted a P600-million budget to Malacañang for a 500-member peacekeeping and humanitarian mission.

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myDream JCB CARD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REMINDERS

- Must be 21 to 65 years old for principal and 13 to 65 years old for supplementary.
- Must be an existing Principal cardholder for at least 12 months with a credit limit of P20,000 and above of any of the following credit cards: Locally issued Mastercard, Visa, JCB, Diners Club, American Express, BPI or Unicard.
- Must have a landline in the place of work/business.
- Billing address must be within the areas of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Quezon, Cebu City, or Davao City.
- Applications without the required documents or with incomplete information will not be processed.
- Applicant must sign and complete the application form placing N.A. where Not Applicable.
- Previously declined applicants can only re-apply after six (6) months.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

A. For myDream JCB Card Application
- Signed myDream JCB application form
- Latest three (3)months Statement of Account (SOA) from the other credit cards (ORIGINAL)
- Statement of Account at least 12 months ago as proof that your account is at least one year old (ORIGINAL)

B. For Balance Transfer to myDream JCB (pls. refer to the Balance Transfer mechanics)

ABOUT YOU

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE (must be between 21 to 65 years old) mm dd yy
SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
CIVIL STATUS ☐ Single ☐ Separated ☐ Married ☐ Widowed
CITIZENSHIP
HOME PHONE NO.
CELL PHONE NO.
TAX IDENTIFICATION NO. (TIN)
EMAIL ADDRESS
MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
HOME ADDRESS (all fields must be filled up properly)
House No. & Street
Subdivision/Barangay
Town/Municipality
City/Province
Zip Code
HOME OWNERSHIP
Years Months of Stay
☐ Owned (not mortgaged)
☐ Owned (mortgaged)
☐ Living with Parents/Relatives
☐ Rented
DO YOU OWN A CAR?
☐ No
☐ Yes How many?
☐ Not mortgaged
☐ Mortgaged
NO. OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ☐ High School ☐ Some College ☐ College ☐ Post-Graduate

YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS

EMPLOYMENT ☐ Private Sector ☐ Government ☐ Self-Employed ☐ Retired
NAME OF COMPANY
ADDRESS (all fields must be filled up properly)
Department
Floor and Building
No. and Street
Subdivision/Barangay
Town/Municipality
City/Province
Zip Code
Telephone No.
Years
Months of Stay (with Company/Business)
NATURE OF BUSINESS
POSITION
OCCUPATION
TOTAL GROSS ANNUAL INCOME
BASIC P per annum
OTHERS/NON-FIXED (e.g. Commission, Allowance, etc.)
Description Annual Amount
TOTAL

YOUR SPOUSE

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy
☐ Employed ☐ Self Employed ☐ Others
NAME OF COMPANY
Telephone No.
ADDRESS
POSITION

PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS (your Card & Monthly Statements will be delivered here)
☐ Home ☐ Office

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Applications for a myDream JCB card from existing Bankard cardholders will be accepted only if the cardholder has been a member for at least 12 months in his current Bankard credit card (e.g., if the cardholder has a Bankard MasterCard issued April 2003, he can apply for a myDream JCB card in April 2004).

ARE YOU AN EXISTING BANKARD/RCBC CARDHOLDER: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Card Number Credit Limit Issue Date

NO. OF OTHER CREDIT CARDS (non-Bankard) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ More than 2
Card Brand Card Number Credit Limit Issue Date

DEPOSITS
Bank/Branch Type of Account (Savings/Current/Time Deposit)

EXTENSION CARDS (for immediate family only, 13 years old and above)

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy TEL. NO. RELATIONSHIP SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 1

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy TEL. NO. RELATIONSHIP SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 2

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy TEL. NO. RELATIONSHIP SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 3

FEES INFORMATION (subject to change upon prior notice)

ANNUAL FEES
Principal - P800.00 Extension - P400.00

No processing fee required. Please do not enclose payment.
Applicable fees will be billed upon approval of application.

YOUR SIGNATURE

All information given in this application form is true, correct and complete. By signing below, I/We authorize Bankard, Inc. to make any credit investigation to evaluate, validate or verify all information, including financial standing or employment. I/We understand that falsification and/or giving false information in this application, and/or supporting documents submitted, shall be grounds for the rejection of my/our application, immediate termination of my/our credit card privileges, and/or legal action against me/us. Bankard, Inc. shall have no obligation to provide the reason for rejection of the application. By signing at the back of the card/s, I/we accept the terms and conditions of membership, including any amendments thereto

Applicant's Signature Date

FOR BANKARD USE ONLY

Reference No
Processed By: Date

All information contained in this application is accurate as of printing date April 2003.

BALANCE TRANSFER MECHANICS

1. Your card balance from your other non-Bankard accounts may be transferred as PEP Installment or as a Straight or Regular charge to your new myDream JCB card.
2. Only Principal cardholders may apply for Balance Transfer.
3. The Balance Transfer amount should not exceed the ending balance reflected in the existing/other card's Statement of Account.
4. Balance Transfer will be allowed from non-Bankard card accounts, provided these accounts are at least one (1) year old and in good credit standing in the last 12 months. Only Peso outstanding balances are accepted for Balance Transfer.
5. Balance Transfer to myDream JCB is allowed from a maximum of two (2) non-Bankard cards only.
6. The Balance Transfer Request shall be processed upon completion of this form and submission of the following documents:
   - Latest three (3) months Statement of Account (SOA) from the other credit cards (ORIGINAL)
   - Statement of Account at least 12 months ago as proof that your account is at least one (1) yr. old (ORIGINAL)

YOUR BALANCE TRANSFER INFORMATION

I wish to apply for myDream JCB Balance Transfer. I would like to transfer the following amounts from my other credit cards to myDream JCB under its Balance Transfer Program. My personal data and instructions are as follows:

A. Card Company/Payee
Credit Card Number Card Issue Date
Amount to be Transferred
Mode of Payment: Straight/Regular ☐ Installment ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months ☐

B. Card Company/Payee
Credit Card Number Card Issue Date
Amount to be Transferred
Mode of Payment: Straight/Regular ☐ Installment ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months ☐

BALANCE TRANSFER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) Bankard holds absolute and exclusive right to approve or reject an application for Balance Transfer, or approve only a portion of the amount applied for, without any obligation to give reasons for such denial or partial approval.
2) Bankard will only transfer the amount you requested, as indicated on this request form, as long as it does not exceed the total amount due from the applicant's other credit cards and the approved credit limit of his myDream JCB card.
3) Bankard allows Balance Transfer from a maximum of two (2) cards. In such a case, the higher amount requested for balance transfer will be the first to be considered. If the higher balance approved for transfer does not exceed the applicant's myDream JCB card credit limit, Bankard may allow the transfer of a portion of the second balance equal to the remaining credit limit of the applicant's myDream JCB card.
4) A period of two (2) weeks shall be provided for Bankard to effect the Balance Transfer Request. Prior to this, the applicant must continue to pay the minimum amount due required by the other credit card company.
5) Applicant acknowledges his/her liability to Bankard for any Balance Transfer Request that has been fulfilled and will form part of the applicant's liability to myDream JCB.
6) Upon approval of Balance Transfer Request, Bankard will send the check payment directly to the issuer of the applicant's other credit card. Receipt of payment by the other credit card company shall be deemed as receipt by the applicant himself.
7) Any penalties or charges incurred by the Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder resulting from non-payment of his minimum amount due to the other credit card company shall be for the cardholder's charge. Bankard shall be deemed free from any liability arising from penalties imposed by the other credit card company.
8) The Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder hereby warrants that all information given on this Balance Transfer Form are true and correct and that Bankard is authorized to investigate the information from whatever sources Bankard may consider appropriate.
9) In the event of delay in the payment/crediting of payment to the other credit card or rejection/non-acceptance of payment to the other credit card, the cardholder hereby holds Bankard free and blameless from the penalties to be imposed by the other credit card company.
10) Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder acknowledges that Bankard in its sole judgment may discontinue or cancel the Balance Transfer feature of the card at any time without prior notice and shall have no claim whatsoever against Bankard for the discontinuance or cancellation of the Balance Transfer feature of the card.

This Balance Transfer application is based on my instruction and has no implication on my relationship with any establishment or with any card issuer. If my Balance Transfer request is approved, this shall serve as my written irrevocable authorization to Bankard to initiate the payment of my obligation as specified above. By signing below, I agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions governing the use of myDream JCB card and the Terms and Conditions of the myDream JCB Balance Transfer Program and to pay the monthly installment required for the payment term I chose as well as the minimum monthly amount due on the remaining revolving portion of my outstanding balance with myDream JCB card.

Cardholder's signature over printed name
Date of Balance Transfer Request

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Don't let SARS guard down, RP told

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINES can learn from Hong Kong.

Despite being removed from the list of SARS-infected countries, the former British territory has not let its guard down.

The government maintains "zero tolerance" against spitting, littering and other unhygienic practices.

David Leung, regional director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, said stringent "precautionary" measures remain to assure locals and tourists that SARS is contained.

He said they know that to get tourists back, they have to "build confidence that Hong Kong is a safe place to travel to."

Leung admitted the public is still wary of visiting Hong Kong "because people still don't understand SARS."

Hong Kong was among the worst affected by SARS since it borders China, where the mysterious pneumonia-like disease originated.

The World Health Organization lifted its travel advisory against Hong Kong and Guangdong, China last May 23.

The United States' Center for Disease Control and Prevention followed suit.

The Philippines was also on the WHO's list of SARS-infected countries for a brief time last month.

Leung said thermal scanning is still being done at the airport, ports and borders to screen anyone with fever, one of the early symptoms of SARS.

At public housing estates, he said plainclothes agents regularly check the hygiene practices of residents and the cleanliness of the place.

Violations can cost them their house, he said.

"You've never heard of that before," said Leung, who hosted a luncheon for reporters at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

He said even countries not affected by SARS should still try to be clean to prevent a similar outbreak.

Toronto, Canada experienced a resurgence in SARS cases shortly after it was delisted by the WHO.

People in Hong Kong still wear masks in public, but "a lot less now" compared during the height of the outbreak in April, said Leung.

There are still 100 SARS patients in various Hong Kong hospitals. But for the last 36 days, only one new case was reported, according to Leung.

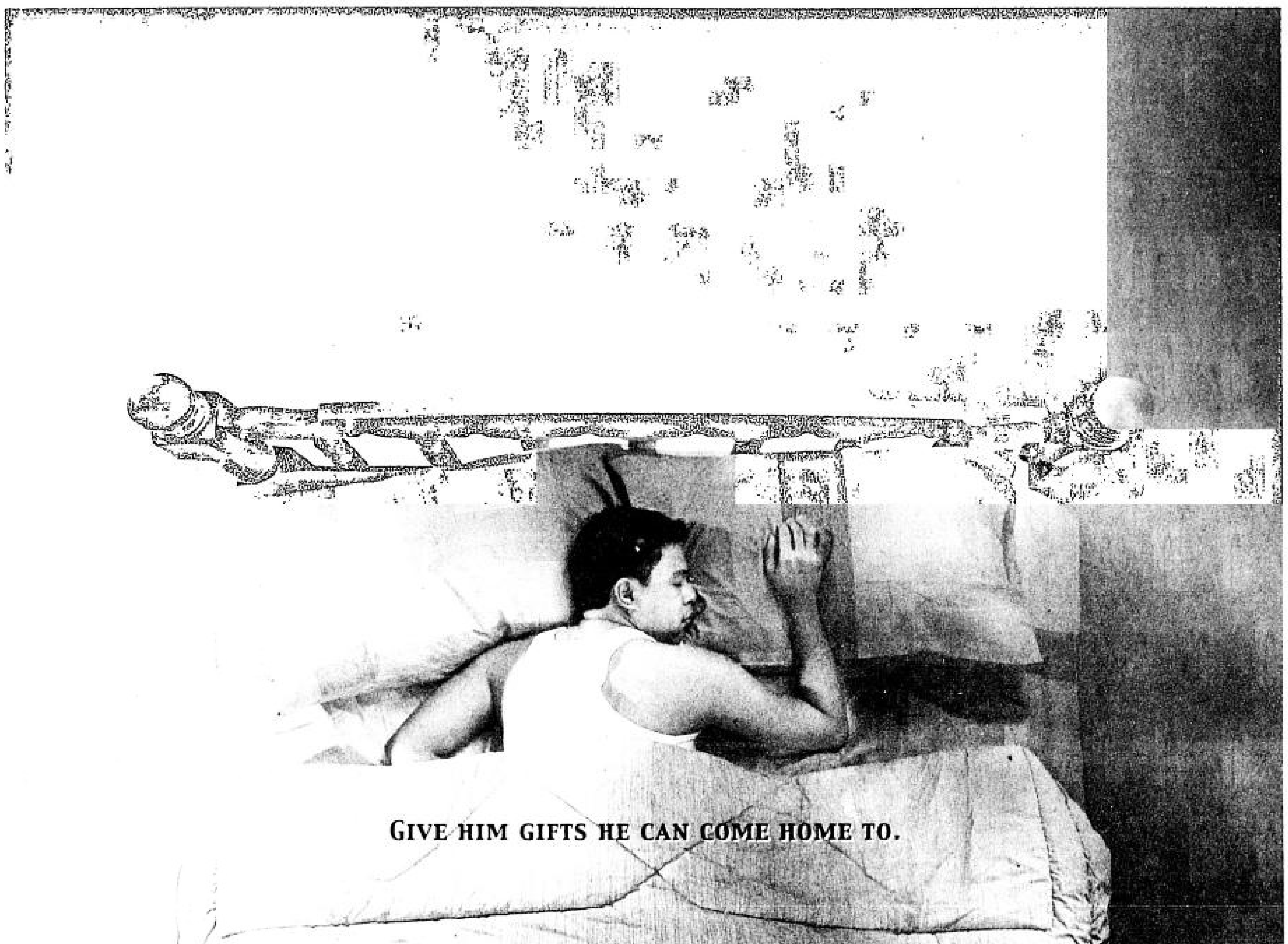
Visitor arrivals to Hong Kong fell by 65 percent during the height of the outbreak, from 1.4 million in April 2002 to only 493,666 visitors last month.

The May figures are expected to be even lower.

The Philippines is Hong Kong's third biggest source of tourists in Southeast Asia, with an average of 300,000 visitors a year.

The Hong Kong government has allocated HK$ 1 billion for its "comeback," including HK$417 million to promote tourism.

Leung said more people are going out again. Some are even availing of domestic tours which is "something unheard of before," Leung admitted.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THE LANDMARK

Group hits discrimination vs AIDS victim

By Blanche S. Rivera

A GROUP of Filipinos living with human immunodeficiency virus has asked the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) to look into the performance of the HIV/AIDS core (HAC) teams in hospitals round the country.

The Positive Action Foundation Philippines Inc. (PAFPI) made the request after an HIV-positive member from La Union suffered discrimination in a regional hospital that supposedly hosts a HAC team.

Composed of a doctor, nurse, medical technician, social worker and midwife, HAC teams are mandates of the Department of Health to equip provincial and regional hospitals with knowledge and skills to treat HIV cases.

But Lenny (not her real name), who died due to cardiac arrest in her province on May 22, was wrapped in two green garbage bags because the hospital has reportedly run out of standard cadaver bags.

PAFPI vice president Tino Ramirez further said in a recent interview that the doctors and nurses had exhibited "offensive" behavior when Lenny's family went to the hospital to seek assistance for Lenny.

Ramirez said that a doctor in the San Fernando Regional Hospital blatantly showed cleaning a stethoscope with alcohol after checking Lenny.

The family also heard instructions for the attending nurses and doctors to "wear double gloves" before trying to revive Lenny, who was declared dead on arrival.

The PAFPI is set to file a report this week before the PNAC detailing its complaint on the way Lenny's case was handled and the absence of HAC team members at the San Fernando Regional Hospital.

Ramirez said that the HAC teams in hospitals in the provinces should have educated the hospital staff on HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its modes of transmission.

This education and information campaign should protect people with HIV/AIDS from discrimination.

"The PNAC should review if the HAC teams are active in all hospitals and if they are functional," Ramirez said.

The PAFPI and Lenny's family have held a dialogue with the hospital's officials last week to air their grievances.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 11, 2003
St. Barnabas, Apostle

1st Reading:	Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3
Gospel:	Mt 10:7-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living. "When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

"As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you."

Commentary

The death and resurrection of Christ gave birth to a new order, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, "Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth." Until then, faithfulness to the law of Moses remained valid as a means of serving God. Now, we who live in the new heavens and the new earth please God in an entirely new way. The Holy Spirit is in our hearts, molding us into the image of Christ, the Son in whom the Father is well pleased. As St. Paul says, "God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son which cries out: Abba! that is Father. You yourself are no longer a slave but a son or a daughter, and yours is the inheritance by God's grace" (Gal 4:6-7).

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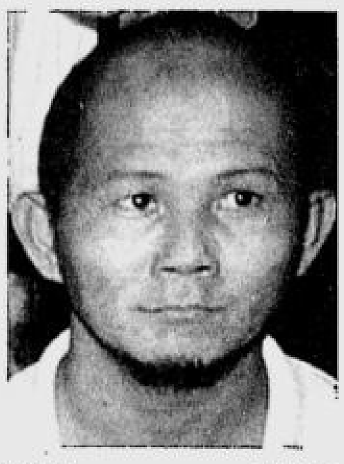
More debriefing for ex-hostage

By TJ Burgonio



ULLA PDI PHOTO

MILITARY officers will also quiz former hostage Roland Ulla if he had seen foreigners during his three-year captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in the jungles of Sulu, officials said yesterday.

Ulla, who escaped on June 4 during a clash between government troops and the bandits in Patikul, Sulu, is undergoing debriefing at the Army's 104th Brigade in Jolo, Sulu, according to officials. He will have to stay at the Army camp for a few more days.

"That's one of the things we are looking at, but as of the latest report there have been no revelations yet," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief of the armed forces' public information office.

The military had said that Yemenis were spotted in the company of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani when his group fled Basilan to Sulu in view of the holding of the RP-US joint military exercises in the area in late 2001.

The Abu Sayyaf, which gained notoriety for abducting foreigners in exchange for ransom, is suspected by the US as having links to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

The military has requested Ulla to stay longer at the Army headquarters for the debriefing so his claims that he carried firearms for the Abu Sayyaf, among others, would be verified thoroughly, Lucero said.

"We also wanted to find out the veracity of his information ... find out if what he is revealing is the truth," he told reporters.

Ulla also claimed he was forced to carry ammo and was threatened by leader Radullan Sahiron that his family would be killed if he escaped. He also said he thought of escaping when he learned that he was being tagged as a "willing hostage."

"We want him to be relaxed and free from any pressures from the outside. In a matter of days, he would be released," Lucero said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that appropriate charges would be lodged against Ulla if found that he had colluded with the bandit group.

Ulla, a diving instructor, was one of the 21 people seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Sipadan diving resort in Malaysia on April 23, 2000 and brought by boat to Jolo.

He was the last hostage to escape from the clutches of the bandits. The rest, mostly Western tourists, were earlier released in several batches in exchange for millions of dollars in ransom.

There had been speculations that the kidnapping was an "inside job" and Ulla was one of those who tipped off the bandits about the presence of foreigners in the island-resort.

Mindoro kidnap, slay raps ready

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is set to file later this week kidnapping and double murder charges against the prime suspect in the killing of two human rights activists in Oriental Mindoro, Justice Undersecrtary Jose Calida said yesterday.

Calida also warned military officials who are coddling the suspects that they would also be charged with obstruction of justice.

Calida, head of Task Force Mindoro, said M/Sgt. Donald Caigas will be charged later this week after four witnesses positively identified Caigas as one of those who abducted Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy on April 21.

"The evidence is already complete. Four witnesses positively identified him," Calida said.

He said he has also received death threats through his cellular phone on Monday night.

On text message, from the cell phone 0916-294-8282, warned that his and his family were being watched.

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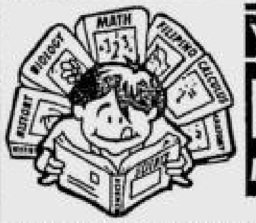

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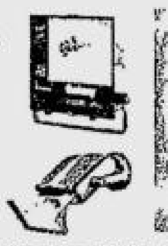

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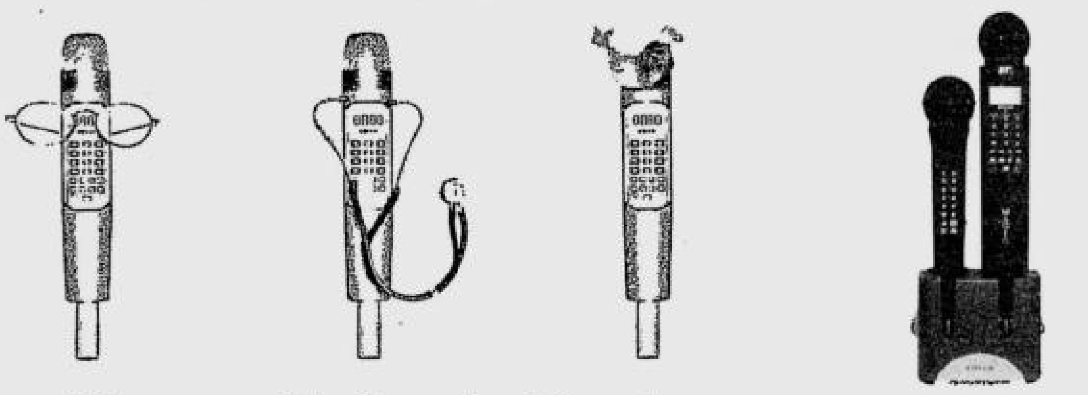

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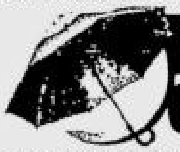

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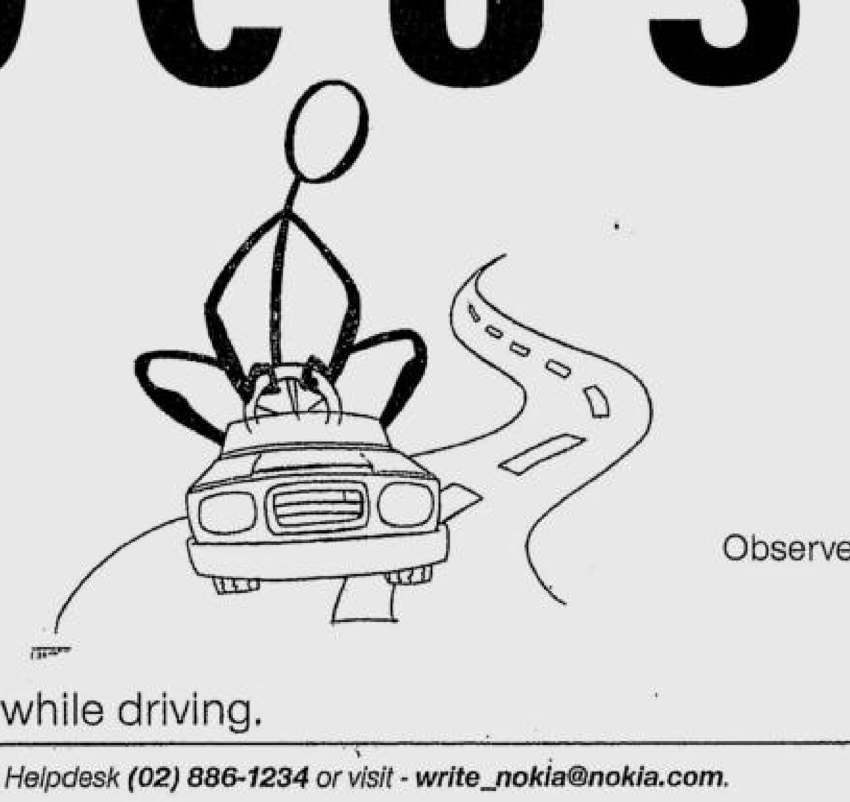

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Buried in dirt

EDITORIALS

EVERYONE has his favorite story about some sex scandal involving members of the clergy. But still every fresh revelation about the sexual dalliances of men (or women) of the cloth never fails to shock and disappoint. And the shock and disappointment get worse when the person involved is not just an ordinary priest assigned to some lonely parish but a bishop who is well-loved by his flock and is highly regarded by his peers and society as a whole. Like Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. of the new Diocese of Novaliches.

To the Catholic faithful in his diocese and the parishes he has served earlier in his priesthood, Bacani is the ideal pastor, teaching the gospel in a way they can easily understand. To his fellows in the Church hierarchy, he is a model and mentor not only because of his facility of expression but also because of his courage in denouncing evil in both society and government. And to the poor and the oppressed, he is a champion who has defended their right and taken up their causes against the powerful and influential.

All that is about to be forgotten now, buried under the dirt of allegations of sexual misconduct that have yet to be proven.

Bacani has been accused by his former secretary of making unwelcome sexual advances on two occasions, the more recent of which was in March this year. Certain individuals and feminist groups, like Gabriela, have pointed out that it is the most difficult thing to do for a woman to admit that she has been violated. It also helped boost the woman's credibility that she made no other demand than the resignation of the bishop, making her decision look like nothing more than a simple quest for redress and investing it with the noble purpose of saving others from being similarly victimized. Then there was Bacani's letter to his constituents where he said he was "deeply sorry for the consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection to my secretary" and his departure for the United States. Put all this in the context of a Catholic Church rocked by sex scandals both here and abroad, including the resignation of Bishop Crisostomo Yalung of Antipolo who had confessed to having sired children with a married woman, and Bacani looks like he is guilty as charged.

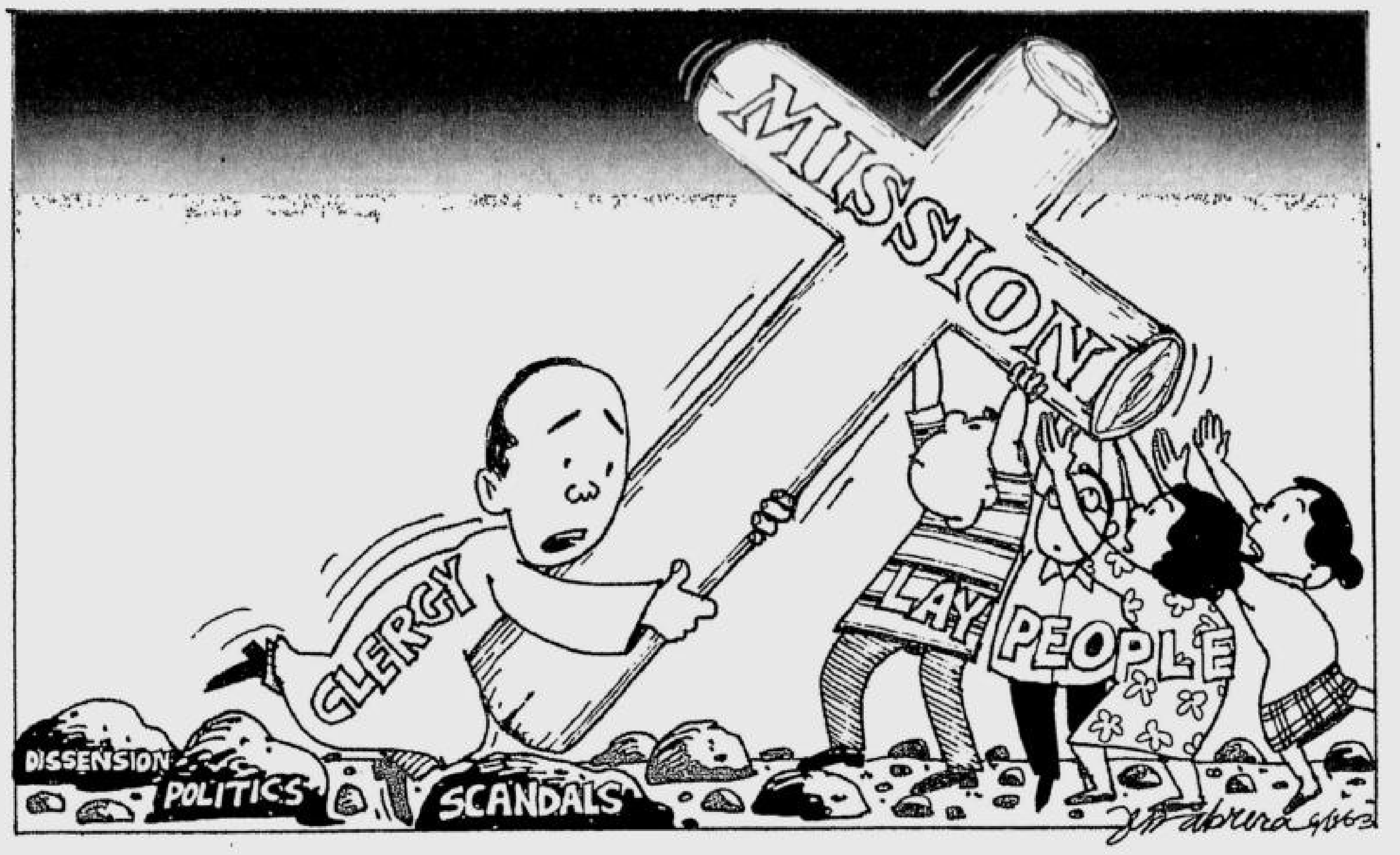
On the other hand, Bacani has denied "most strongly the sexual rap" contained in some news accounts. The members of his flock and his staff find the allegations preposterous. And there is one detail in the secretary's story that needs some explaining: between the first and the second incidents of alleged sexual harassment, there is a gap of three years. Meaning Bacani, who was presumably lusting for his secretary, waited three years to pounce on her again. Rather unusual behavior for someone who has been portrayed in some accounts as a serial sex offender.

Was this a simple case of misinterpretation of the bishop's intentions on the part of his accuser? Or is someone deliberately lying? Other than the accused and his accuser, nobody knows for certain at this point. But the process of determining the truth has been set in motion by the Vatican. Until its findings are released it would be best for everyone to reserve judgment, sit back and try to see things in perspective.

Second look

IF one were to give this sorry episode a second look, one would be led to ask what all this is about. What high crime does Bacani stand accused of? He is not charged with rape. The worst act of misconduct being imputed to him is hugging and caressing the woman. Of course, one cannot put a price tag on a woman's honor, but in the hierarchy of sex crimes, sexual harassment just isn't up there with rape. If we go by the penalties set by law, such an act is no worse than stealing an amount not exceeding P50 but more than P5.

Far be it from us to trivialize this case. If Bacani is guilty, he should be stripped of his ministry for he has lost his moral ascendancy. But at the same time, it wouldn't hurt if everyone would resist the temptation to blow everything out of proportion.



A P276-M birthday gift to President Macapagal

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

DO you know that President Macapagal-Arroyo's last birthday anniversary cost the Filipino taxpayers a lot of money, P276 million to be exact? Too much for a birthday gift, even for a President. But no, the millions did not go to the birthday celebration of President Macapagal last April 5. It went into the pockets of contractors and perhaps, some officials of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA).

The money is the overprice for Phase 1 of the LRT 2 project, the elevated rail line that will run, when completed, from Santolan in Pasig, to Tutuban Center, along Recto Avenue, in Divisoria, Manila.

Because of the law requiring public bidding before awarding contracts for government projects, public officials and contractors have to be inventive to be able to get some of the money for themselves. Since the contract is supposed to be given to the lowest bidder, there is little chance of having plenty left of the contracted price when the project is finished to be given away as kickbacks. The trick is to have the contract price escalated for a variety of reasons after the contract has been awarded. That was how the now infamous President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (another Macapagal!) now better known as our own version of "The Road to Perdition," became the most expensive road per linear meter in the world. That was how the Piatco-contracted Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport became too scandalous the contract was nullified by the Supreme Court. That was how President Ramos' Centennial Expo became a booby trap for former Vice President Salvador Laurel while the real masterminds escaped unscathed. That was how so many other government projects became overpriced. For each project, the contractors and government officials have to invent their own excuses to increase the original bidded price.

In the case of the LRT "Transport Mess" scam, it was the birthday anniversary of President Macapagal that was used as an excuse—apparently without her knowing it. To stampede the LRTA board into approving an increase in the project cost, Administrator Teodoro Cruz (no relation of mine or Justice Isagani Cruz's) gave the impression that Packages 1 and 2 of the LRT 2 project are to be speeded up so that the line can be opened by April 1, from the original date of June 8, as a "birthday gift" to President Macapagal whose natal day falls on April 5. Actually, Cruz's own birthday falls on April 1, so it is more of a birthday gift for himself, and the joke is on GMA—and on the taxpayers. Rep. Augusto Baculio of Misamis Oriental delivered a privileged speech on this latest scam.

Since it is a birthday *pakulo*, a *sipsip* gimmick for the President, the board approved on Sept. 26, 2001, an additional budget of P200 million for the "acceleration of the packages from Santolan, Pasig to Araneta Center in Cubao." Another resolution was approved on Feb. 4, 2003 increasing the budget by another P85,307,356 "to accelerate the works of Package 4." The two additional amounts total P286 million, but to make it appear that the government actually saved money, it was allegedly "negotiated" down to P276 million. P276 million to speed up construction for 69 days amount to about P4 million a day in additional expenses.

Why the sped up construction would cost that much when it would mean finishing the project early is beyond me. Sure, the contractor would have to hire more people and equipment working round the clock, but the expenses would also stop when the work is finished earlier. The contractor would pay overtime for workers during the 69-day accelerated phase, but payments would also stop for the last 69 days of the original schedule because the project would already be finished. And the amount of construction materials—cement, steel, gravel and sand, etc.—would be the same. There is no additional construction anyway. So I don't understand why the budget has to be increased by P276 million just to speed up completion.

And even the President herself, I am sure, would be scandalized at spending so much money for a birthday gift for her. With that much money, a better birthday gift for her would have been a new housing project for the homeless, or more schools for school-less students.

That's not the only loss. That's only the beginning. Because of the premature opening of the Santolan-to-Cubao line, according to Congressman Baculio, the already financially-strapped LRTA is losing another P1 million a day in operating the Pasig-Cubao line.

But to convince the board to approve the increased cost, Baculio said Cruz "mesmerized, hoodwinked and deceived" the LRTA board by telling it that the Santolan-Cubao line will generate P1,450,970 per day in ticket revenues.

Cruz further sweetened his proposal by adding that the "additional costs which would be incurred due to commercial operation are estimated to be P13,040,000 for the 69-day period. Based on a government study in 1997/99 (MMUTIS), we estimate the value of social benefits generated by the early introduction of the service to be P37.2 million. In addition, there will be further unquantified benefits to the environment and public perception of the system."

But here is the painful truth: The Santolan-Cubao line earns a measly P20,000 a day, not the P1.45 million a day that Cruz mesmerized the board and Malacañang with. Why Malacañang? Because all government contracts above P50 million need Malacañang's approval.

Based on the P20,000 daily earnings, the monthly income is only P600,000. This is not even enough to pay the P1.6 million monthly bill for electricity that runs its trains.

Who is going to pay for all this red ink because of LRTA's birthday *pakulo*? Who else but the Filipino taxpayers.

Bishopric

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE ITEM I read in the paper said Teodoro Bacani is just getting treatment for diabetes outside the country but will come back and continue to broadcast on radio. If so, I would most earnestly urge him to change the title of his program. "Bishop's Move," which if I recall right also aired on TV at one point, is going to have some supremely ironic connotations. I can assure him chess will not be foremost on his audience's minds.

I've read the news reports, most of them capturing the shock and dismay of the faithful. And their speculation at the repercussions of this scandal on the Catholic Church, following as it does the report early this year of another bishop, Crisostomo Yalung, siring a son and supporting mother and child while running the diocese of Antipolo. Can the Church afford another scandal of this scale? That seems to be the question parishioners are asking.

I myself don't see it that way. Doubtless, the impact on the Catholic Church of all this is a valid question. This is so particularly in light of the Church's earnestness in campaigning against sex in local movies, a campaign that took on the aspect from the start of the Inquisition. Its first victim was a perfectly intelligent movie called "Live Show." I've said my piece about that movie, and will continue to defend it against detractors who insist, often sight unseen, on lumping it together with trash.

The scandals do tend to undercut the Church's moral authority. Though I can't say that is something I mourn unduly. The movie producers are likely to retort that the Church might first want to cleanse its own stables before it calls on them to do theirs. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" will probably be the most quoted text from the Bible. The public itself may wonder if the dangers from watching sex flicks, or beholding their posters, that the Church likes to invoke apply only or largely to its clergy, which it keeps in a state of utter, well, let us just say, sexual tension.

But this business goes well beyond that. The Yalung and Bacani cases—or charges, since neither has been proven—are completely different, even if they both apply to bishops and entail clergy betraying their vow of chastity. Yalung was accused of keeping a family, Bacani is accused of sexual harassment. Those are two different things.

My sympathies were completely with Yalung. I did write a column at the time suggesting so, and questioning the wisdom of a policy that forbade priests to marry, or have a family. A policy, or proscription, that is completely man-made and does not apply to Protestants. I've always thought it was presumptuous of priests to engage in marriage counseling, or lecture couples in the fine art, or torture, of keeping together. You may not need to commit murder to understand the gravity of the crime, or the psychology that attends it—you need only read Dostoevsky—but you need to commit marriage to appreciate the gravity of the marriage vow, or the pathology that attends it—no book will help you there. There are things to be said for remaining unmarried, there are few things to be said for remaining chaste. Those are two different things, however the Church refuses to acknowledge it—with often tragic results.

Frankly, I don't mind that Yalung has a family. If I were one of his parishioners, I'd say "Good for him," and invoke God's blessings rather than wrath upon him and his loved ones. I'd rather trust someone who is capable of loving another human being than someone who just loves humanity. The first is capable only of producing children, the other only of producing wars. Or Inquisitions.

My sympathies are entirely not with Bacani. What he is being accused of is not "falling into the snares of the devil," as the Church felicitously puts it, and which the women's movement has every right to protest, suggesting as it does the wickedness of Woman. What he is being accused of is sexual harassment, or forcing someone into his clutches, as anyone may well put it. I know it's just an accusation, and unless proven remains so. But a 33-year-old woman has come out to say so, and Gabriela has a point when it says that the odds about their individual veracity are stacked more in her favor than his. The stigma in this macho country attaches more on the accuser than the accused in cases like this. She gets to be thought of as "damaged goods." Only the most compelling reason could have driven her to risk it.

I do not mind that priests flirt. I do not mind that they fall in love and have affairs. I do not even mind that they have a family. But I do mind that they use positions of authority to cajole, or pressure, people to bend to their incontinent will. That is foul, whether priest or not. Indeed, the priest-liness there is completely incidental, and has to do only with the degree or formidability of the authority.

I did catch a glimpse of the effects of this on the victim when someone wrote in Talk of the Town during the height of the Church scandals early this year about her experience in this respect. She was still a small girl when the local priest used to visit their house and touch her when her parents were away. Her sense of violation mingled with a crippling fear, and she was never able to tell her parents about it. She was talking about it for the first time in her article, which understandably carried a pseudonym. It felt cathartic, she said, even if her soul thirsted for justice.

My sympathies are with the victim here, and the Church will be better off giving justice to the aggrieved, if her word should prove true, than worrying about its effects on Church authority. Nothing erodes authority faster than injustice, or deception.

Bishop to move, mate in one.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

March of the old people to the Senate

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

WELL over 1,000 old people marched to the Senate last Monday in heavy rain to push for passage of the Magna Carta of the elderly. Some were so old and frail they had to be helped along, but no one stopped. They looked happy and confident in what organizers said was the largest elderly people demonstration in memory. Old people everywhere in the world would have been proud of them.

The Magna Carta systematizes what is already given to old people (over 60 years of age) in other legislation. Old people say the benefits often don't amount to much in practice. They are granted a 20 percent discount on medicines, for example, but only Mercury Drug cooperates and the company is having second thoughts about continuing, since the Bureau of Internal Revenue is reluctant to grant a tax rebate. Medicines are literally the life blood for old people in every country.

The old people who were at the Senate believe, according to leaders of the Coalition of Services of the Elderly that organized the march, that to get such benefits and better ones, they must organize as workers, farmers and urban poor people do. They think the Magna Carta will help them organize by establishing councils at all levels of the government. At the march they had their own fiery speakers and *ati-atihan* music that had the old women dancing.

It is doubtful if anything the Senate can do, however, will help in the short run to solve the basic problems of the aged poor. I asked Remedios Lucindo, who is in her 70s and an urban poor leader I have known for 20 years, what she thought was the very hardest part of being poor and old. She told me: "It's seeing your children and grandchildren as poor and hungry as you ever were despite your lifetime of work. You've done everything you can and still your grandchildren are hungry. There's nothing left but to go into the streets and beg for them. That's the end of your dignity." She said many old people have done that.

"Demolitions are a big problem, too," she said. "Old people who have done their best all their lives to raise their children and do the right thing are put out in the street and don't know where to go." Recently, old people were among hundreds of poor people driven from their homes by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at the very height of last week's storm. Demolitions are not supposed to be carried out in such conditions.

"We need medicines, rice and fish, job opportunities, security in our homes," a man said to me as we walked along to the Senate. The Senate can't provide all that. The economy must improve and the economic and power abyss between rich and poor must narrow before the aged really benefit.

The economy of the country has changed, however, in a way that hurts the poor of all ages. There are fewer unskilled labor jobs. Semi-skilled jobs require high school diplomas at least, and only 20 percent or poor people have diplomas. Globalization of the economy has had harmful effects on the aged as on all the poor. Children used to support their aging parents. Now it's more common at least in the urban areas to see grandparents supporting the young.

Also, the aged are the fastest-growing sector of the population. They will increase from 5 million now to 14.5 million in 2020, an increase of almost 300 percent, another reason the situation will likely get much worse.

The representative of Sen. Noli de Castro told the people the senator didn't know they were coming and was in South Korea with the President. He is the principal sponsor of the Magna Carta. The people said De Castro did know. No other senator came down to talk to them. Most senators probably didn't know they were there. The bill is delayed, people told me, because it is not high profile and because Sen. Edgardo Angara, the traditional patron of the aged, resents De Castro's entry into his turf.

At a meeting at the Ateneo that same morning Sen. Franklin Drilon said he thought the bill had been passed—it hasn't.

The old people had plenty of supporters. A group of street children from Bahay Tuluyan were there cheering on the old people. One of the children, Mary Joy Señeres 13, told me, "We are here because we are all getting old and we hope there won't be all these problems when we are old."

Baby Catan, an urban poor leader of the Kabalikat people's organization in Baseco who is in her 30s, told me she had come with old people from Baseco "to guard them."

We all need guarding. We're all getting old.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

UN nuclear agency team checks out nuclear plant

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dafna Linzer

TUWAITHA—Representatives of the UN nuclear agency got a first-hand look Saturday at the postwar damage to Iraq's main nuclear facility, peering through broken windows and roaming the grounds to assess the extent of looting and disarray.

The visit to the Tuwaitha nuclear plant was conducted under close watch by American officials, as is the entire mission by the International Atomic Energy Agency—which aims to determine how much damage was done to the plant during the war and what went missing.

For three hours under a blazing afternoon sun, the UN team, accompanied by American weapons hunters, toured the grounds and looked into rooms where tons of uranium and radioactive sources had been safely stored for more than a decade.

Tuwaitha, Iraq's largest nuclear facility and now defunct, was left unguarded for two weeks after Iraqi troops fled the area on the eve of the war.

US troops didn't secure the area until April 7. In the meantime, looters from the surrounding villages stripped it of uranium storage barrels they later used to hold drinking water. Villagers said the looting continued when the Marines handed over control to another unit in mid-April.

In preparation for the IAEA return, the US military ordered villagers to sell back the barrels for US$3 each. The Pentagon said they had retrieved 100 barrels so far. Some 3,000 barrels of low-grade uranium were stored at Tuwaitha, and even while the IAEA was inside the sprawling complex Saturday, Iraqi workers wearing white suits and breathing masks dropped off more of the blue barrels.

A US weapons team created to dismantle and eliminate any nuclear weapons found in Iraq has already conducted its own assessment of the site.

Col. Mickey Freeland, who heads that team, refused to say how much uranium they believe is now missing. "I'm not going to state what we did or didn't find," he told The Associated Press before heading out to the site with the IAEA team.

Another American colonel, Tim Madere, said some 20 percent of Tuwaitha's uranium is unaccounted for.

Freeland's team is accompanying the small group of seven IAEA members wherever it goes, and the military has placed the UN experts in a Baghdad hotel it is running. It wasn't clear Saturday if the UN experts—who arrived in the Iraqi capital the day before—would even be allowed to leave the hotel after work hours without troop escort, military sources and IAEA members said privately.

The Pentagon has said the military presence is meant to provide security and support, but the IAEA group wasn't allowed to use neutral UN vehicles for transportation. Instead, they were taken to Tuwaitha in a bus driven by a US soldier traveling in a 10-car military convoy.

The arrival of the UN group—seven men, none of them American, whose expertise ranges from nuclear physics to arms-control analysis—marked the first time since the war began that representatives from the agency returned to Iraq.

The IAEA had long monitored Iraq's nuclear programs and recently investigated claims by the Bush administration that Saddam was reviving his nuclear weapons program.

The head of the IAEA, Mohamed El Baradei, said early on there was no evidence to support Washington's claims, and other UN inspectors found no signs of biological or chemical weapons.

So far, US weapons hunters, including Freeland and his team, also haven't found any of the weapons the Bush administration said it went to war to destroy.

US President George W. Bush claimed two mobile labs that the CIA says were designed for biological weapons production were evidence Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. But he quickly backed away from that, and arms-control experts are quietly expressing skepticism about whether the trailers were even related to biological research.

At least two senior weapons analysts familiar with the laboratory finds have said their work shows the laboratories could have had nonmilitary uses as well. The analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to discuss further specifics while the research is ongoing.

The Bush administration cut off the IAEA from the weapons hunt after its assessments of Iraq's nuclear programs hurt Washington's efforts to win international backing for the war. Relations further soured amid early war reports that US troops had failed to secure Tuwaitha and other nuclear facilities in Iraq from looters.

After weeks of pleading by the IAEA and the arms-control community, the Pentagon finally relented and agreed to let a small IAEA team in under strict guidelines that permit the United Nations to visit Tuwaitha on a one-time-only trip that must be wrapped up by June 25.

Iraqi scientists who surveyed the looted plant before the US troops began protecting it said villagers left behind piles of powdered uranium inside a building known as "Location C." The scientists cemented over the spilled materials to prevent leakage or further exposure to residents.

AP

Mabini's un-resignation

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

APOLINARIO Mabini arrived in Kawit, Cavite, carried on a hammock from Batangas, on June 12, 1898. It must have been an uncomfortable trip for the man textbooks have immortalized as the "sublime paralytic." Why they didn't load him into a *calesa* or *carromata* is beyond me and I imagine the bumps and scrapes Mabini endured at his rough handling. At times, the weary men dropped their burden unceremoniously on the ground to be taken up by another batch of carriers. Mabini did not complain. This cripple summoned to Kawit was to become Emilio Aguinaldo's closest and most influential political adviser. Had the men known the national treasure they were mishandling, they would have been more gentle and respectful.

Mabini arrived just in time to catch the declaration of Philippine independence read from the center window of the Aguinaldo home. This was drafted and read by Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista who, until Mabini's arrival, was Aguinaldo's trusted adviser. We all expect, perhaps demand, that a declaration of independence should be an inspiring historical document but when read today we are embarrassed to see that our flag with its red, white and blue commemorated, "the flag of the United States of North America, as a manifestation of our profound gratitude towards this Great nation for its disinterested protection which it lent us and is continuing to lend us..." No wonder, in retrospect, that our independence was short-lived, so was Rianzares Bautista's career.

What was the first meeting of Aguinaldo and Mabini like? Surely, they sized each other up. Aguinaldo must have felt shortchanged when he first sighted this cripple who was highly recommended as having a golden head (*ulong ginto*). Mabini would have seen through the trappings of power and Aguinaldo's military uniform to see someone who needed frank advice. It is one thing to declare independence and another to know what to do with it. Contrary to popular belief, Mabini was not in favor of the June 12 declaration. Had he arrived a few days earlier perhaps we would be celebrating independence day on another date today.

Mabini felt that the reorganization of the revolutionary government was more important than the declaration of independence. Of course, Mabini wanted independence but not in the way it was proclaimed on June 12. 1898. He pushed for a strong government (sounds like "Strong Republic") with the powers of state in the hands of one man (Aguinaldo, of course) until war-time conditions were over. Mabini believed that the reorganization of the government was more important than a formal declaration of independence because foreign powers had to be convinced of the stability and competence of the newly born Philippine government before they recognized its independence. A strong government, more than a declaration of independence, assured them of recognition. Then as now, actions meant more than empty words.

Unfortunately, Mabini was too straight for comfort. While he might not have appeared to be in favor of the declaration of independence on June 12, 1898 he would push for complete and unconditional independence in 1899 when less cowardly (pragmatic?) men in government sought an end to the Philippine-American War by proposing autonomy for the Philippines under American protection. Mabini did not survive one full year in government. He resigned on May 4, 1899 and received a letter from the president accepting the resignation on May 7, 1899. Students of history reading these documents today get an exercise in reading between the lines. The document, signed by Mabini, T. Sandico and Gracio Gonzaga, reads in part:

"The present Cabinet, from its formation in January last, is conscious of having done all that it believed conducive to the welfare of the country, which, in its opinion, consists in the independence of the same, within its meager strength and the limited resources at its command, and, in so doing, it has always been guided by a dispassionate consideration and the most unalloyed patriotism. It may have made mistakes in many of its decisions, but, even then, it can prove that it has acted in good faith.

"Despite the Council's desire to continue working with all its strength in all that could redound to the general welfare, it is well aware that there may be others who might know how to conduct public affairs with better effect and luck. Its honor and the short service it was able to render to the country with loyalty and unselfishness compel it not to obstruct the coming into power of those who may consider themselves with more strength and greater knowledge; but, at the same time, that very honor and very service advise it also not to tender its resignation during these moments which are so critical and so serious to the country, so that its attitude may not be taken for weakness.

"Desirous to reconcile both extremes, the Secretaries of the Council earnestly pray that, as soon as you have become convinced that other persons possess greater facilities for the realization of the happiness of the country, you consider the present cabinet resigned, going through the kindness of communicating it to your resolution to have another Cabinet formed..."

Does the above read like a resignation? I think not.

(Conclusion on Friday)

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The overseas vote

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN FRANCISCO—The Overseas Voting Act of 2003 (RA 9189) is a global, historic opportunity for overseas Filipinos, especially those based in Northern America who have maintained steadfast links with the motherland, to help develop and move the country toward modernization.

These were the words of former Sen. Heherson T. Alvarez, newly appointed Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities, in a recent swing across major US cities including San Francisco and Honolulu. Alvarez, who fled to New York during the Marcos regime to escape "shoot to kill orders," added that the May 2004 election is a watershed in the life of our nation, marking a qualitative change in our choice of leaders with the participation of Filipinos overseas.

The big question is, who are entitled to vote? It's any citizen of the Philippines, at least 18 years old on the day of the election and registered as an absentee voter, or who is certified as a registered voter under the provisions of the Voter's Registration Act of 1996.

Conversely, who are disqualified as absentee voters? There are six categories, briefly summarized as: (1) those who have lost their Philippine citizenship by naturalization in a another country, (2) those who have renounced their Philippine citizenship, (3) those who have been convicted of offenses punishable by no less than one year of imprisonment, (4) those who have been found guilty of Disloyalty under the Revised Penal Code, (5) those declared insane or incompetent by competent authority, and (6) immigrants or permanent residents, unless they execute upon registration an affidavit prepared by the Comelec declaring that they shall resume actual physical residence in the Philippines not later than three years from approval of their registration as absentee voters.

It is the last category that has elicited a number of comments or questions. In fact, as the primer distributed by Alvarez indicates, a case questioning this provision allowing immigrants and permanent residents to vote by executing the affidavit referred to above has been filed and is pending before the Supreme Court. If this provision is declared unconstitutional, only the overseas Filipino workers can vote under the law.

"Immigrant" is a generic term which has different meanings. It can mean a foreign citizen who has become a naturalized citizen in, say, the United States, or a permanent resident alien who retains his or her original citizenship. The latter constitutes the "green card holders" who can opt to become American citizens after usually three years. Thus, when one talks about the "immigrant community," this is a mixture of naturalized citizens and permanent residents who are waiting to become US citizens, or choose to retain their original citizenship while being allowed to stay in the United States. There are illegal or undocumented aliens, the so-called "TNTs," whose visas are expired but manage to stay on or even work as though they were legal.

In any case, it is highly unrealistic to expect that permanent residents will rush to execute affidavits to take up residence in the Philippines simply to exercise their right to vote in absentia in Philippine elections. This just doesn't make sense and goes against the prevailing trend after 9/11, that is, most permanent residents are scrambling to become US citizens because it's getting harder and harder to maintain a permanent resident status. This permanent resident category is actually a contradiction in terms. It's really a temporary visa status, and if you are out of the country for, I believe, more than 180 days, you are required to apply for a reentry permit, costing nearly $100 including mailing costs.

That's probably why the suit was filed to begin with. If one has become a permanent resident, under the rigid immigration rules post-9/11, he or she would rather file for American citizenship after three years, rather than opt to take up physical residence back in the Philippines just to be able to vote for President, Vice President and party-list members in Filipino elections. Besides, even if this were to create a groundswell, who is going to enforce this provision among thousands, possibly millions of green card holders?

Now, if there were dual citizenship, in which case one can vote legally in the countries of one's dual citizenship, this would be less of a hassle. Ideally, therefore, the Philippine Congress should have passed the "dual citizenship" law first just to erase the ambiguity of the "permanent resident" issue.

The registration process may prove to be another disincentive. In drawing up the National Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters, registrants must produce a valid Philippine passport, accomplish the Comelec form, and in the case of permanent residents, execute the affidavit cited earlier. I imagine that these cannot be accomplished via computer, and to have to be physically present in the Philippine embassies or consulates overseas, would be simply not feasible for most Filipinos who work. Besides, the Philippine foreign offices have to publish the requirements for registration at least six months before the date of filing the registration application.

In the case of the May 2004 elections, all registration applications shall be filed between June 24 and Oct. 31, 2003 to comply with the law. These are very short deadlines and it is highly doubtful if the embassies and consulates can mount a registration campaign adequate enough to get an appreciable list of absentee voters. They are understaffed for the most part, and the task would be daunting especially in big Filipino communities like those in California, Hawaii, Illinois, Florida, New York, New Jersey and others.

In the Honolulu presentation of Alvarez, most of the questions had to do with cheating in the absentee elections. This just shows that the image that sticks in people's minds about Philippine elections is the lack of integrity in the whole process, with vote buying, tampering, violence and all other kinds of irregularities associated with elections. Who will count the ballots and how will the results be transmitted to the Philippines? It's well known that it's in the transporting of the ballot boxes that many of the irregularities occur in Philippine elections. Will the results be transmitted by e-mail? What will be the role of the Comelec in the conduct of the absentee balloting?

To rush this experiment simply to keep up with the May 2004 elections, with some political calculations of its advantages to certain candidates, would be creating a disservice to the Filipino overseas communities, which the Voting Act has empowered to become full participants in the electoral process.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

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Collective dialogue needed in Katipunan

AT AROUND three o'clock in the afternoon last Wednesday, June 4, 2003, I stood aghast and petrified, along with my neighbors, as we watched the Metro Manila Development Authority pull out a Talisay tree with their so-called "balling machine" in front of One Burgundy Plaza, 307 Katipunan Road, Quezon City. I rushed to get my camera to document the incident but they had taken away our Talisay tree by the time I got back to the crime scene.

The MMDA failed to realize that they are provoking a community that has a history of confronting national leaders who failed to live up to the ethos of democratic consultation. Never mind the glaring evidence of its street name that must remind us of the glorious days of the Philippine revolution. Recent events have witnessed how political upheavals, such as the Kilusang Roll Back in 1994, the opposition to Joseph Estrada's attempt to bury Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani in 1998, and the eerie noise barrage and street marches of Edsa Dos in 2001, were ignited along Katipunan Road. The wax of candles that were lit during those days of street protests are probably still stuck on the islands that the MMDA has mindlessly drilled and destroyed. I am sure President Macapagal-Arroyo, a resident of our community, is aware of the political time bomb ticking in the hands of her trusted MMDA chair.

Loyola Heights is a complex community. Its constituency of shopkeepers, academics and homeowners must be convinced by valid arguments and discourses rather than the brute force of machines and pseudo-scientific claims.

The failure of the Estrada presidency must serve as a lesson to successful former town mayors that feudal forms of government are not readily translatable to the dynamics of post-civil society politics. The government must learn how to deal with NGOs and individuals who demand the accountability of political actors before the bar of public opinion.

The problem here cannot be solved by arbitrarily choosing between the need for efficiency in order to achieve economic progress versus the ideals of sustainable development. There are many creative ways to resolve this apparent dilemma: we may be able to narrow the islands along Katipunan while preserving and planting more trees or we can invent technological means to prune the trees so that they will grow vertically instead of horizontally. But such ideas will not emerge, will remain stunted, and perhaps even become aborted at this point because of the failure of a government agency to practice the principles of people's participation.

The government can be enriched and made to flourish by the fresh insights of ordinary people who actually work and live in the communities that will be affected by the resolute action of government agents. This is not to say that ordinary people are smarter than those who have chosen to serve the government. I have the deepest respect and appreciation for our government personnel. But we are not debating government agents to merely outscore them in a competition of ideas. We are requesting for a collective dialogue and exchange of insights so that we can achieve the common good of all concerned parties.

—RAINIER R. A. IBAÑA,
One Burgundy Plaza,
307 Katipunan Road,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Shotgun approach to problems

THE DESIRE of Interior Secretary Joey Lina that Metro Manila cops read and carry the Bible in their work (PDI, 6/8/03) may not be a gimmick. But it virtually reflects a frustration over the widely perceived moral deterioration in the police force. Indeed, people tend to look up to the supernatural when their problems appear humanly irremediable.

Even in the Roman Catholic seminaries, the Bible is not as much a prescribed textbook as are the books of St. Thomas Aquinas and other saints on the teachings of Jesus. In more or less the same fashion, Lina would appear more realistic and less pedantic if he printed and distributed to all policemen a pocket-sized booklet in which would be compiled their basic functions, responsibilities, standard operating procedures and other related guidelines. That should be the policemen's bible. Graft and corruption in the government service is admittedly a function of moral decline; but the Bible is the Church's tool, not the state's. What belongs to the state is strong political will.

On the other hand, subjecting the members of the police force to drug tests is already an old and threadbare propaganda. I still recall the front-page picture in a 1997 issue of the INQUIRER showing police officers indiscreetly "doing that thing" against the wall to get urine samples for a drug test conducted at the Western Police District headquarters. Whatever happened afterwards was everybody's wild guess! That is the sad fate of many of the government's drives to improve public service: they begin and end noisily advertising the means, they rarely care about the result. The other problem is their shotgun approach to perceived problems. And so, all drivers, all cops—eventually, perhaps, all employees and students—are practically presumed to be drug users until they pass a drug test. As a layman, I am particularly bothered by its highly demoralizing psychological consequence on the innocent in various organizations, such as the police force. Alas, can we not learn to, more reasonably, determine the chaff from the grain?

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
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No cause to celebrate CARP's 15th year

AFTER 15 years of the so-called Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), farmers in Central Luzon and the rest of the country still do not see any hope of owning the land they till.

While failing miserably to resolve the basic problems of farmers such as high production costs due to lack of government subsidies and the promotion of massive land use conversion, the Macapagal administration instead endorsed deceitful policies such as the "Farmers as Importers Program" and now the "Farmland as Collateral Bill."

We fear for the small gains earned by the farmers. The small portion of lands distributed through Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) via CARP will all be taken away with the passage of "Farmland as Collateral Bill" or Senate Bill 2553.

Senate Bill 2553 entitled "An act amending certain sections of RA 6657/CARP" sponsored by Senators Sergio Osmeña, Ralph Recto and Juan Flavier is a deliberate blow against the concept of agrarian reform. SB 2553 entails: (Section 2) sale, transfer or conveyance of awarded lands, (Section 3) awarded land as collateral, (Section 4) mortgage or sale of cultivation rights to any persons, and (Section 5) disposition or sale of private agricultural lands retained by landowners.

To us, this means that the government is deliberately abandoning its duty of providing credit access by encouraging farmers to pawn their hard-earned lands to the private sector. Surely the government is conscious of the dangers of exposing the poor farmers' lands to private lenders and confiscation by a bank but they are pushing for SB 2553 anyway.

As for Agrarian Secretary Obet Pagdanganan's proud announcement that they will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of CARP, as we are upset over another huge spending of the people's taxes in celebration of a fraudulent program. We expect the government to be happy as they accomplished withdrawing the small gains of agrarian reform beneficiaries and completely fooling the farmers into believing the government is effecting land reform through tokenism.

Farmers have long ago questioned the Macapagal administration's sincerity in making genuine land reform a reality. Given these new developments, we have proven that land reform is not among Ms Macapagal's priorities. But farmers have been resilient in their struggle for land to till, so we vow not to give up the fight and vigilance in defending any small gains we have earned.

—PABLO ROSALES,
national chair,
Pambansang Katipunan
ng Makabayang Magbubukid
(PKMM), kpd@edsamail.com.ph

Candidates should have college degrees

WITH THE ABUNDANCE of candidates being presented in the upcoming 2004 presidential elections, one can't help but wonder why a lot of candidates don't have at least a college degree.

The value of education will be meaningless if we will not require elective officials to have at least a college degree. It is a fact that education elevates the standards of governance.

How can a public official do his duty if he himself is just a high school graduate or maybe a college dropout? His knowledge is limited so he gathers his advisers to help him in his predicament. But is it not better if that official is a college graduate to assess by himself the recommendations of his advisers and either to affirm, revise or to modify the same?

As a whole, a college degree would not just elevate the standard of governance but would invite respect from his constituents and perhaps even his political enemies.

—RALPH FRANCIS PALMA,
pointblank_0626@lycos.com

Proof that MILF is terrorist

THIS pertains to the statement of Eid Kabalu, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson, last March 18, 2003 on the fate of the captured Army soldier and six Cafgus in Lanao del Norte. The six were released on March 29, 2003, but the fate of Cpl. Johnny Ompoy remains unknown.

Kabalu said "the captives were treated with dignity in accordance with Islamic laws and international humanitarian laws."

He is not telling the truth. Just recently, the Army's Task Force Diamond overran a rebel stronghold and recovered the decomposing body of Ompoy, who had been held captive by the MILF rebels since last March.

Ompoy was tortured before he was killed by the MILF rebels. His decomposing body amply showed the MILF's true color as a terrorist group.

—LT. COL. JOSELITO E. KAKILALA,
spokesperson, Philippine Army,
Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City

Toward a better PNP image

THE RECENT image program launched by the Philippine National Police dubbed 100 Days of Transformation is quite timely, specially here in Mindanao.

As part of its quest for a "friendlier, dependable, courteous and trustworthy" image, the PNP could start with desisting from using bonnets during police raids, securing warrants before searches and arrests, stopping the use of torture on suspects, banning the use of safehouses during interrogation, ensuring access of relatives, lawyers and doctors to suspects under custodial detention, and prohibiting the confiscation of detainees' torture affidavits by custodial officers.

Any action for stamping out torture will earn "*pogi*" points from me.

—ROMEL CARDENAS DE VERA,
Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines-Mindanao 219 Ponce cor
Aurora Sts., Davao City

Casecnan project had all approvals needed

WE refer to the article of Christine O. Avendaño on the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project ("the Project") last May 24, 2003.

The article referred to statements made by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, to the effect that the project was "fast-tracked" by the Ramos administration and was "seriously flawed" as it was not approved by the Investment Coordinating Council (ICC) and the National Economic Development Authority (Neda), as required by law.

We were disappointed as much as we were surprised that such erroneous conclusions could be made or reported. We would like to believe that it was not due to recklessness or irresponsibility.

In any case, in fairness to all concerned and in the interest of truth, allow us to set the records straight:

1. One of the earliest instruction of then President Fidel V. Ramos related to the project was embodied in a memorandum dated Feb. 22, 1994, addressed to the secretaries of agriculture, energy, finance, environment and economic planning, including the Napocor president and NIA administrator.

"In the light of the results of the evaluation you have conducted on the Casecnan Transbasin Diversion Project Proposal of the Casecnan Water and Energy Consortium, you are hereby directed to negotiate further with the Consortium on a BOT scheme at terms and conditions most beneficial to the government and the Filipino people."

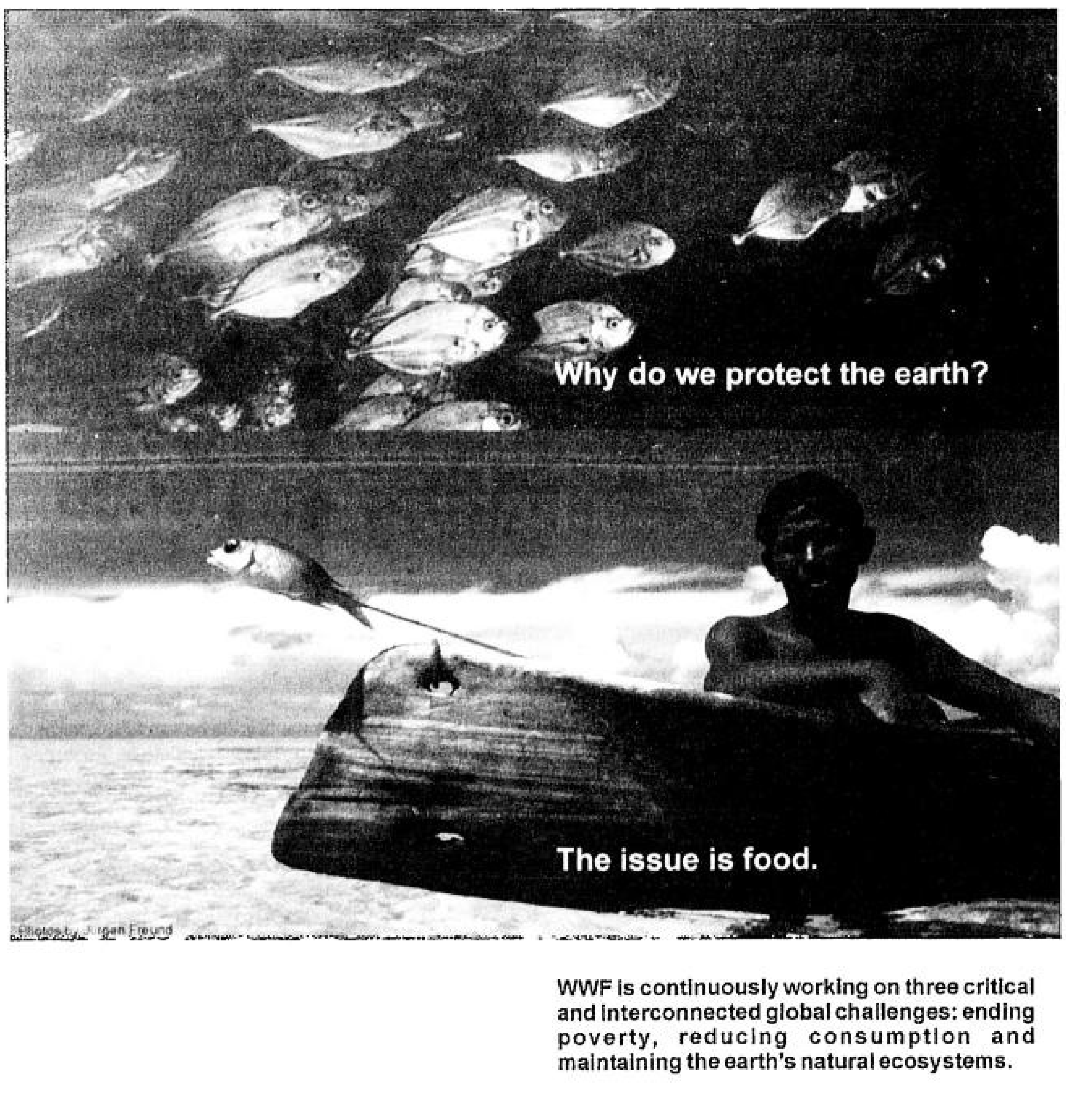
2. In its meeting on June 20, 1995, the Neda ICC approved the Casecnan Multipurpose Project. Notice of the approval was conveyed to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in a letter dated June 26, 1995, signed by Neda Acting Director General Aniceto Sobrepeña. The secretaries of the DOF, DBM, DA, DOJ, including the chief presidential legal counsel, BSP governor and the Napocor president were furnished copies of the same letter.

3. In its meeting on July 11, 1995 the Neda Board likewise approved the Casecnan Project. The NIA administrator was formally informed of such approval in a letter dated July 24, 1995, signed by Socio Economic Planning Secretary and Neda Vice Chair Cielito Habito, with copies furnished to the secretaries of the DA and DBM.

4. The conditions required in the aforesaid approvals such as the favorable endorsement of the project by the Regional Development Councils II and III, including the legal opinion of the DOJ have been met and are matters of record.

5. Under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 7718, there are at least nine separate steps in the approval process of projects of this nature. Again, it is on record that these steps were strictly adhered to by all the implementing agencies under the due diligence process.

—FRUMENCIO A. LAGUSTAN,
FVR spokesperson,
(former undersecretary
for legislative affairs, OP)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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

AUNG San Suu Kyi at a small celebration organized by members of her National League for Democracy party on her birthday at the party's headquarters in Rangoon in this photo taken June 19, 2002. AP

Suu Kyi unhurt, in good spirits, says UN envoy

RANGOON, Burma—A UN envoy to Burma met Tuesday with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and said she was "well and in good spirits" but gave no indication if she would be released.

The envoy, Razali Ismail, was the first outsider to meet with Suu Kyi since she was put under detention by the military government at a secret location May 30, following clashes between her supporters and military backers that prompted a crackdown on her pro-democracy party.

There have been widespread concerns that she may have been injured.

"I can assure you she is well and in good spirits ... no injury on the face, arm. No injury. No scratch, nothing," Razali told reporters, after an hour-long meeting with Suu Kyi.

He declined to say where the meeting took place, but a source said on condition of anonymity it took place at the Defense Ministry guesthouse. It was not known if Suu Kyi was being held there, or whether she was driven there for the meeting.

Asked if she talked about the May 30 incident, Razali said: "She has her version and I have taken that into account. I have different reports of this and that."

He declined to say anything more, and left on a flight to Singapore en route to his native Malaysia.

The meeting with Suu Kyi was seen as a partial success for Razali's five-day mission to secure her release. But there was no indication from the junta when she would be freed, and Razali would not speculate.

Razali got permission to meet her in talks Monday with Deputy Senior Gen. Maung Aye, the No. 2 general in the junta.

The government says the clash that led to Suu Kyi's detention was sparked when her motorcade tried to go through thousands of pro-government protesters, and that four people were killed.

But exiled opposition figures in Thailand say pro-junta thugs started the violence, that as many as 70 people were killed and that Suu Kyi may have received head injuries in the clash. The government has said only that she is unhurt and in custody in a "safe place."

Before meeting with Suu Kyi, Razali had said that he would tell her about the "the international worries and concern about her and how the UN (has started) to take steps for her immediate release."

He also said he would like to come back to Burma "as soon as possible."

"I hope and pray" that Suu Kyi will be free by the time he comes back the next time to "hasten the process of national reconciliation," he said.

The US Department of State says the May 30 clash appears to have been an ambush by junta supporters. It says the events suggest the junta has ended efforts at national reconciliation, launched most recently in late 2000 and brokered by Razali in a series of visits.

Since the clash, offices of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party have been shut and other party leaders are under house arrest.

Suu Kyi's detention has drawn sharp criticism from around the world and threats of more economic sanctions from the United States.

Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her nonviolent struggle for democracy, spent six years under house arrest in 1989-95. Her party won general elections in 1990 but was blocked by the military from taking power. *AP*

Suu Kyi, the accidental activist, faces junta's displeasure again

RANGOON—Aung San Suu Kyi, who went from housewife in England to one of the world's most recognized political prisoners more than a decade ago, has once again found herself at the blunt end of the Burma military's displeasure.

Having spent more than half of the past 14 years under house arrest, with the last stint ending just a year ago, Suu Kyi is again isolated in detention.

The 57-year-old became an international icon when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991—during her first spell of house arrest from 1989 to 1995.

Released from another spell of house arrest in May last year, Suu Kyi set out on a series of trips to the provinces to meet her National League for Democracy (NLD) party workers and supporters.

Drawing big, enthusiastic crowds and turning up the pressure on the military to begin talks on a transition to democracy, her trips attracted an increasingly hostile response from backers of the military government.

Then, on May 30, Suu Kyi's attempts to bring democracy and reconciliation to the impoverished country were once again met with brute force.

The United States says it suspects Suu Kyi and her convoy were ambushed and attacked by "government-affiliated thugs" in the north of the country. The military says four people were killed in clashes but dissidents in exile suspect scores of Suu Kyi's supporters were killed.

There were fears Suu Kyi had been hurt, but UN envoy Razali Ismail met her on Tuesday and said she was "in good spirits" and had not been injured.

The resource-rich country of 45 million people, also known as Burma, has been ruled by the military since a 1962 coup.

Suu Kyi's NLD won the country's last elections in 1990 by a landslide, but has never been allowed to govern, treated instead to imprisonment, harassment and intimidation.

Suu Kyi was born in Rangoon, then called Yangon, on June 19, 1945, and educated in India and Oxford before working with the United Nations in New York.

In 1972, she married Michael Aris, an Oxford academic, and they raised two sons while moving between Bhutan, India and Japan before settling in Oxford.

But the idyll of Suu Kyi's life in the English countryside ended in 1988. She returned to her family's home on Rangoon's Inya Lake to care for her ailing mother just as resentment of military rule boiled over into nationwide pro-democracy protests.

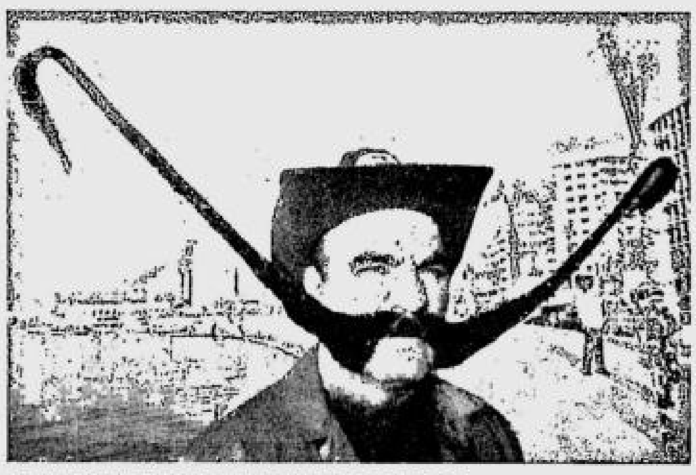
Thousands of people had been killed by the time the military finally crushed the uprising in September 1988.

Suu Kyi's struggle to lead Burma down a more democratic path has come at great personal cost.

She has always refused to leave the country for fear of not being allowed back in, while her husband was for long periods refused a visa to visit her, even when he was dying from prostate cancer.

Aris died in March 1999 and Suu Kyi declined an offer from the junta to leave the country to attend his funeral.

Her determination may be a family legacy, left to her by her father, independence leader Gen. Aung San, who was assassinated by rivals when Suu Kyi was a baby. *Reuters*



REFUGEE FROM A RAZOR BLADE AP

Mohammed Rashid, a 62-year-old Turk, displays his moustache to strollers at the Corniche in Beirut, Lebanon, June 9. Rashid says his 1.6-meter-long moustache placed him in Guinness Book of Records as the man with the world's longest moustache and said he has not cut his moustache for about 10 years.

US seeks military base in Thailand, report says

BANGKOK—The United States is seeking to lease land in Thailand for a military base to combat militant groups suspected of planning attacks in Southeast Asia, the Nation newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Thailand was keen to improve its relations with the United States after keeping quiet on the US-led war in Iraq and wanted to lease sites close to it's own military bases in the east of the country, the daily said.

Thai military sources said the base would be used primarily as a logistics site for troops to store equipment for operations.

"The US has interests in every part of the world and strategically it needs facilities for force deployment to protect such interests," Rear Adm. Yuttana Phagpolgnam, the director general of the naval operations department, was quoted as saying.

An unidentified military source told the Nation Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was keen to lease the site as a way of generating cash. Thaksin left on Monday for a five-day tour of the United States to meet President George W. Bush.

"The Prime Minister is taking a commercial approach. The facility would generate income, like a lease agreement at an airport," the source said.

Officials at the US Embassy in Bangkok declined to comment on the reports.

The United States' main bases in Asia are in South Korea and Japan. Washington also has forces helping combat Muslim separatist insurgents in the Philippines. US bases in Thailand closed soon after the Vietnam war finished in 1975.

Thai military and security agencies said they were looking at vacant plots near Thailand's Sattahip naval base and U-Tapao air base near Pattaya, 150 km east of Bangkok.

The New York Times reported this week the United States had been using U-Tapao air base for interrogating al-Qaida suspects, but Thailand denied this.

"I can confirm that no al-Qaida operatives have been interrogated at the U-Tapao base and neither are there sophisticated interrogation facilities on the site," a government spokesperson told the Nation.

The government also denied claims the base, which was regularly used by the United States during the Vietnam War, had been used as a launch pad for US planes for combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. *Reuters*

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*1. Contingency Planning Research

Rumsfeld: Saddam behind Iraq unrest though he's dead

LISBON—Saddam Hussein may be behind Iraq's continuing unrest even if he is dead, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday as US occupation authorities struggled to stave off anarchy and rebuild the devastated land.

Rumsfeld and US President George W. Bush also defended the administration's decision to invade and occupy Iraq against those who say it was based on a lie, flatly denying they exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam's Baath party regime.

En route to Europe, Rumsfeld suggested the missing Saddam was still inspiring remnants of his regime to resist the US-led occupation.

"To the extent it's not proven that he is not alive, there are people who might fear he could come back. If they fear he could come back they might be somewhat slower in an interrogation to say what they know," he said.

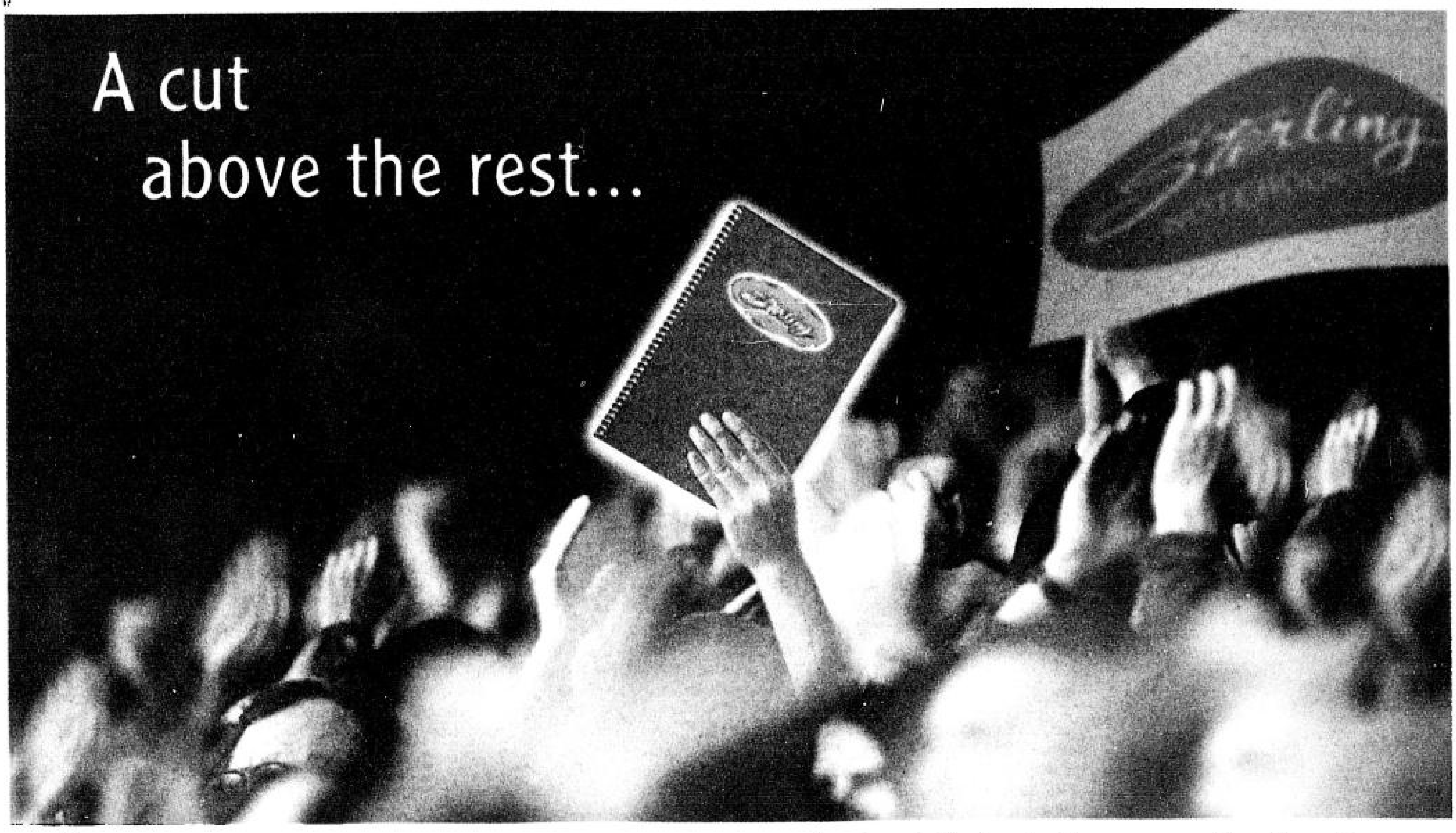
"It might give heart to the Baathists who may want to hope they can take back that country, which they are not going to succeed in doing. So I think to some extent that is a fair comment."

US-led coalition forces have been unable to find Saddam or ascertain whether he is alive after being targeted twice by coalition air strikes.

In a reminder of the ongoing danger from a recent series of hit-and-run attacks, Iraqis pretending to need urgent medical aid shot and killed a US soldier at a checkpoint near the Syrian border.

The soldier killed at a checkpoint in Al-Qaim was the 29th to die since May 1, when Bush declared the war in Iraq effectively over.

"An undetermined number of assailants pulled up to the checkpoint in a vehicle and requested help for a sick person in the car. Two people armed with pistols then exited the vehicle and shot dead the soldier," the US Central Command said. *AFP*



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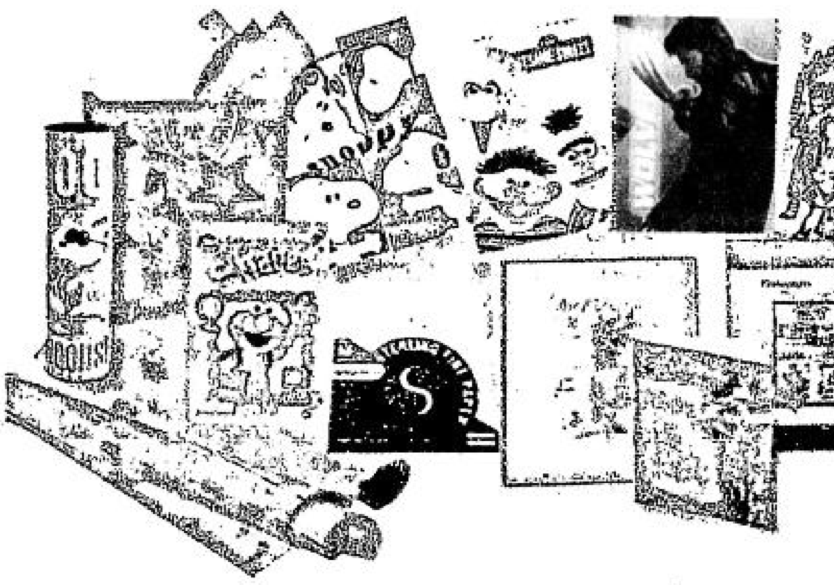

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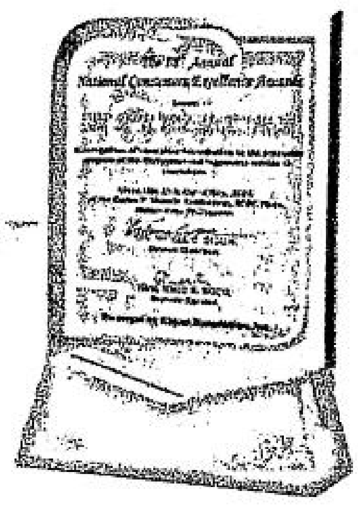

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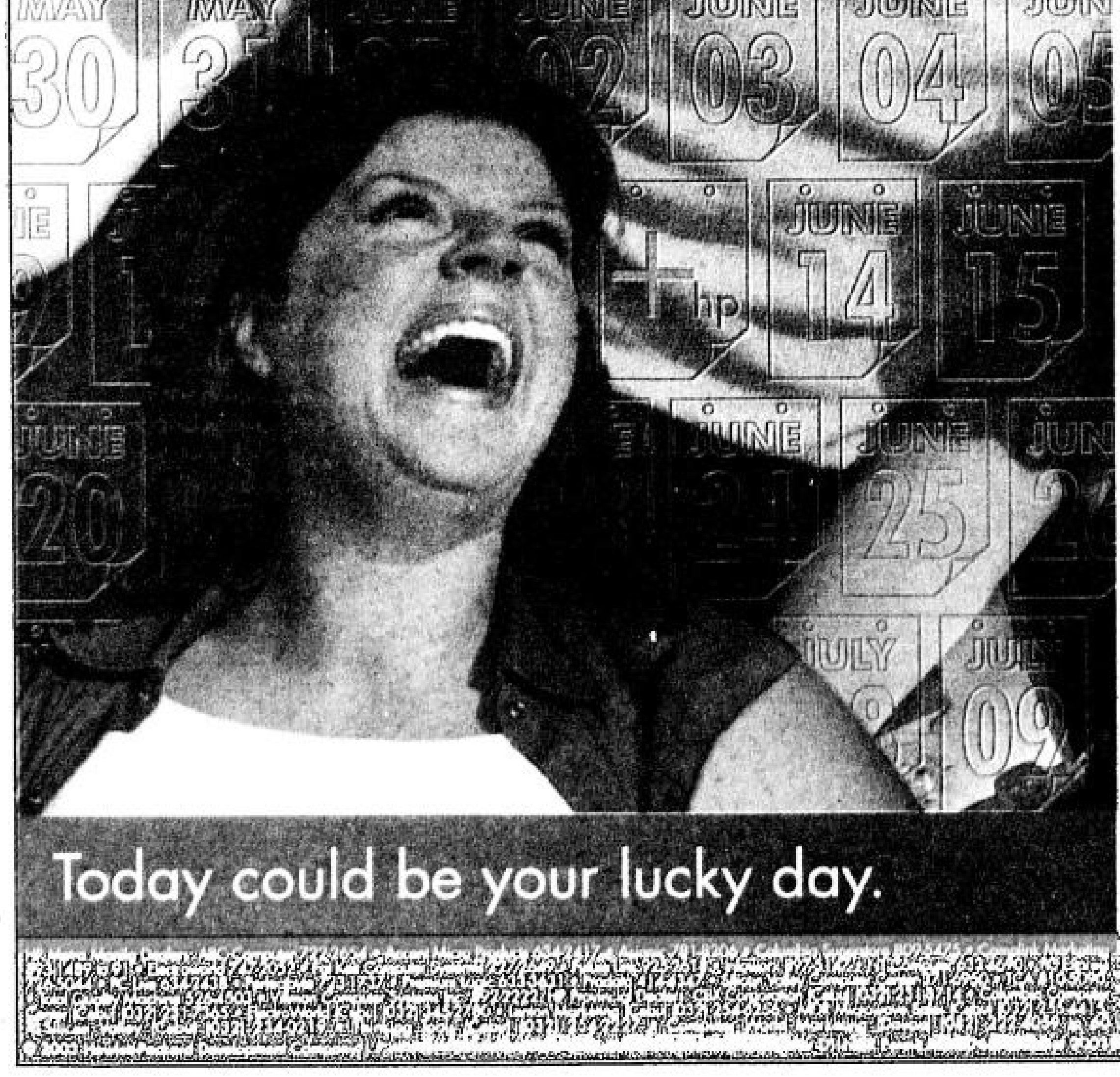

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Israel starts dismantling settler outposts

JERUSALEM—Israel tore down 10 Jewish settler outposts by Tuesday morning under initial steps on the ground toward implementing a US-backed "road map" to peace and Palestinian statehood.

The removal of the clusters of caravans on lonely hilltops, which began on Monday, set Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on a path to confrontation with settlers he had long championed. But he drew Palestinian derision.

"This is a theatrical and insignificant step," said Nabil Abu Rdainah, a top aide to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed the Israeli move, which followed a pledge Sharon made at a peace summit on June 4 with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and US President George W. Bush in the Jordanian city of Aqaba.

"I'm pleased that Israel is now discharging the commitment it made to the international community at the Aqaba summit," Powell said in Chile.

The army said it had removed "unauthorized structures" at 10 outposts. Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said 15 outposts, including the 10 already dismantled, would go at this stage.

The road map, the most far-reaching Middle East peace plan in more than two years, calls for an end to violence and reciprocal confidence-building steps.

They include the removal of settler outposts set up since March 2001, the month Sharon took office, and a freeze on construction inside established settlements.

Israel's Peace Now, a nongovernmental movement which monitors settlements, says that there are about 60 outposts, none authorized by the government.

Boim said further steps by Israel would depend on Abbas and his security chief Mohammed Dahlan reining in militants spearheading a 32-month-old uprising for independence.

"The issue of settlements and the settlement freeze must come only after Abu Mazen (Abbas) and Dahlan prove they are waging a determined war on the terror groups through disarmament and arrests," Boim told Israeli television.

Benzi Lieberman, leader of the Yesha Council representing the 220,000 settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, said settlers would not fight the soldiers but would bring tens of thousands of protesters to rallies in settlements and Israeli cities.

Settlers oppose the road map's call for a construction freeze at the 145 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which were authorized by the government.

Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war and the international community considers the settlements illegal under international law. Israel disputes this. *Reuters*

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Britain 'not yet ready' to join the euro—Brown

LONDON—Britain is not yet ready to join the euro, Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown announced on Monday, while holding out the possibility of a referendum on the issue in the next few years.

Three of five economic tests on the potential impact of euro entry, imposed by Brown himself in 1997, had not been successfully met, he told parliament in a verdict that keeps Britain at arm's length from a rapidly integrating Europe.

There was not yet sufficient convergence or sufficient flexibility between the economies of Britain and the euro zone, Brown said, meaning that a third test on future employment, stability and growth could thus also not be met.

However, in a clear concession to pro-euro forces within Brown's Labor Party—including Prime Minister Tony Blair—the chancellor took great pains to stress that he believed Britain would, and should, sign up in the future.

"Our view that membership in a successful single currency would be of benefit to the British people as well as to Europe is strengthened by the results of our assessment," Brown said.

And in another significant sop to euro fans, Brown also announced that a draft bill would be published in autumn paving the way for a future referendum on ditching the pound in favor of the euro.

This would theoretically allow a plebiscite before the next general election, due by mid-2006 at the latest, if the economic conditions were right.

Under a new government timetable for a possible changeover issued as Brown spoke, euro notes and coins could be circulating in Britain within three years of a decision to try for entry.

However, with opinion polls consistently showing Britons lined up two-to-one against losing the pound—a currency which has served the nation without a break since the eighth century—this would appear unlikely.

Brown's widely leaked verdict came as a shock to no one, but nonetheless attracted criticism from both sides of the debate.

The main Conservative opposition was predictably brutal, calling it a compromise designed to paper over divisions between Brown and his prime minister and labeling the five tests a sham.

"This whole exercise has been an exercise in deceit," opposition finance spokesperson Michael Howard told parliament.

Pro-European business groups also expressed disappointment, with Niall Fitzgerald, chairman of household goods giant Unilever, saying the government should "go further." "Every year the UK stays out, the greater the difficulties that will be faced in competing for investment across the EU and the more difficult it will be for the UK to remain competitive," he said.

Perhaps wary of this reaction, the prime minister worked the phones in a series of calls to world leaders following the announcement to explain the verdict.

Blair was due to speak with no fewer than nine leaders including French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a government spokesperson said. *AFP*

Mediators press for ceasefire in bid to stop Liberia bloodbath

MONROVIA—West African mediators hope to persuade Liberian President Charles Taylor to agree to a ceasefire on Tuesday in a last-ditch attempt to prevent a bloody battle for the capital Monrovia.

The coastal city has come under fierce attack by the main rebel faction LURD for four days running, raising fears of a repeat of the tribal fighting which left Monrovia's streets littered with bodies in the 1990s.

The thunder of mortars and heavy artillery resonated across the city for most of the day on Monday, only to die down as darkness fell.

Throughout the day, French special forces airlifted more than 500 foreign nationals, including US and European citizens, to safety. But with land escape routes cut off by the fighting, ordinary Liberians had little choice other than seeking shelter in the city itself.

The capital has already been swelled by a tide of tens of thousands terrified refugees, many of whom are now huddling at the main soccer stadium with little food or drinking water.

With peace talks in Ghana adjourned until Wednesday, regional mediators set off for a diplomatic shuttle to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to muster support for a ceasefire between the rebels and Taylor's forces.

Officials at the regional West African bloc Ecowas, which is brokering the peace negotiations, said the mediators hope to meet Taylor in Monrovia on Tuesday if it was safe enough for them to fly there.

Throwing its weight behind regional efforts to prevent a bloodbath, the United Nations Security Council called on the warring sides "to immediately cease all hostilities and to give the current peace process a chance to succeed."

In a statement, the council also urged belligerents to allow aid workers to cater for those displaced by the violence. *Reuters*

US Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (right), D-NY, greets a customer as she signs a copy of her memoir, "Living History" June 9 at a Barnes and Noble bookstore in New York. The former first lady officially launched her much-hyped memoir and said her husband was also busy pushing the book with its revelations about their marriage and Monica Lewinsky. AFP

Hillary Clinton launches book, but not bid for presidency—yet

WASHINGTON—Senator Hillary Clinton ended two years of low profile when she stepped into the US media spotlight to launch her book, which notes her husband troubles but keeps mum on a presidential bid in 2008.

Around 300 people queued up to have their books signed, some of them all night, to get her autograph.

Not only did she sign books Monday in New York City, but the former first lady also appeared on the cover of Time magazine. She was interviewed by Barbara Walters on ABC television and conservative talk radio hosts took her to task.

Hillary Clinton, 55, evokes contradictory passions, some two-and-a-half years after leaving the White House.

A million copies have been printed, and the book becomes available in France Tuesday.

The launch of her memoir, "Living History," sparked debate over her potential White House bid. Many speculated the book may help pave the way by putting the "Lewinsky affair" to rest.

However, she does not address the possibility of running for president in 2008 and in interviews, she categorically rejects the idea of running for the 2004 election.

Meanwhile, the nine declared Democratic candidates running for the White House are pale in comparison, as figures relegated to the inside pages of newspapers.

Clinton seemed to discount a run in 2008, telling ABC, "I don't have any intentions or plans of running."

She repeated that again Monday, where she signed books in a pearl necklace and a pale yellow suit.

"I have a wonderful job, that's the job I want to continue doing," said the senator, whose term ends in 2006.

Some political pundits and skeptics are reading between the lines.

"She didn't say: 'I'm not running in 2008,'" Bill Clinton political adviser Dick Morris said.

"She doesn't want to announce her plans."

"She's got no plans for 2008, and I've got no plans or intentions for 2008 either," said conservative Fox news commentator Bill O'Reilly.

"The point is, she didn't rule it out."

A Clinton candidacy would not be easy. About 53 percent of those polled in the United States would not want her to be president, according to a recent ABC poll in which 41 percent said they would.

And 48 percent of respondents have a negative opinion of Clinton, while 44 percent have a favorable one.

Her book moves between her private life—her childhood, the first time she met her future husband, marital problems—and the political realm. She recalls for the first time her suffering as a wife deceived over her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky. *AFP*

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Airlines offer cheapest fares to counter SARS

SYDNEY—Travelers are being offered some of the cheapest airfares since the 1970s as Asia-Pacific airlines fight to counter the impact of the SARS virus and global insecurity with bargain basement rates.

Qantas Airways Ltd. announced at the weekend fares discounted in some cases by as much as 50 percent to two of the worst hit regional centers, Singapore and Hong Kong, where the virus has been brought under control.

The Australian national flag carrier is offering packages, which include fares and four nights accommodation, as low as A$800 ($520) from Sydney and Melbourne to Singapore and A$900 to Hong Kong. They will be available until June 21 for travel up to November 27 this year.

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has also announced reductions up to a third in some peak season rates, with stopover packages to London, Paris or Frankfurt as low as A$1,218 from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Brisbane and even less from the West Australian city of Perth.

The airline is also offering cut price packages to Paris, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Dubai and half fares to the first 15,000 people who book.

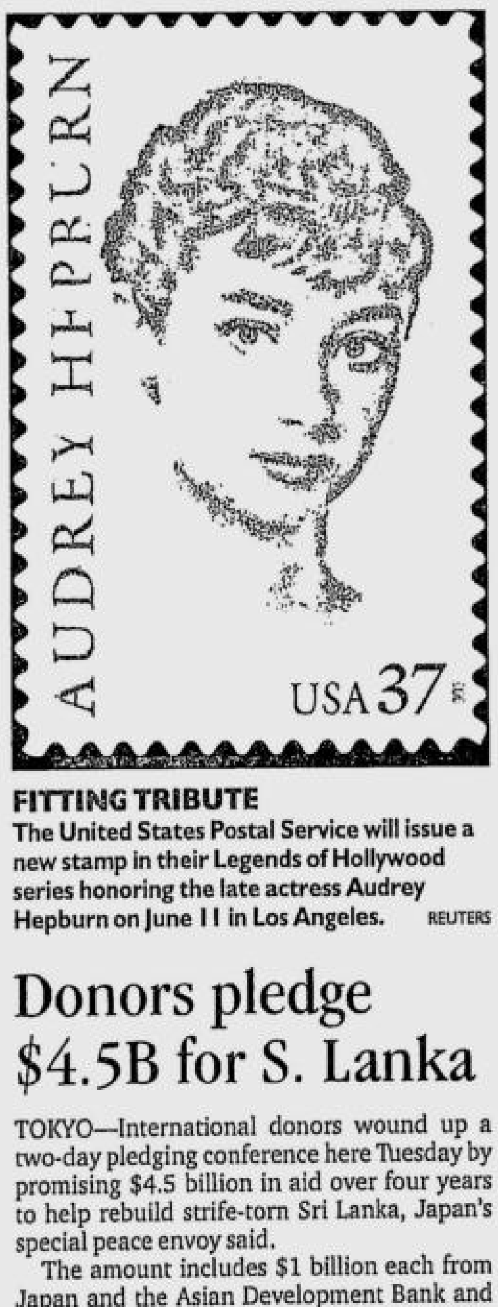
SIA, which the Singapore government has warned may lose as much as S$1 billion ($570) in the 2004 financial year, says the fares are among the lowest since the 1970s.

Airline officials say the fares are intended to stimulate travel to centers affected by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), but admit the recovery in demand is likely to be slow and the discounting is eroding their bottom lines.

Air Canada, also badly affected by the SARS virus, is offering a A$1,600 fare from Sydney across the Pacific to London with a stopover either in Hawaii or Canada.

Qantas Holidays chief operating officer Simon Bernardi said the seat sale represented a saving of up to 50 percent and would help stimulate travel.

"Singapore and Hong Kong have traditionally been extremely popular destinations for Australians," Bernardi said in a statement. *AFP*



FITTING TRIBUTE
The United States Postal Service will issue a new stamp in their Legends of Hollywood series honoring the late actress Audrey Hepburn on June 11 in Los Angeles. REUTERS

Donors pledge $4.5B for S. Lanka

TOKYO—International donors wound up a two-day pledging conference here Tuesday by promising $4.5 billion in aid over four years to help rebuild strife-torn Sri Lanka, Japan's special peace envoy said.

The amount includes $1 billion each from Japan and the Asian Development Bank and $293 million from the European Union (EU).

"This tangible contribution is a vote of confidence in Sri Lanka," said Japan's envoy Yasushi Akashi during the conference closing ceremony.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the aid pledged would "lay the foundation for realization of our goal of a peaceful Sri Lanka in which all people could live in harmony, peace and dignity."

In exchange for their support, donors will make periodic reviews of the progress of the peace process, they said in the final declaration.

"In view of the linkage between donor support and progress in the peace progress, the international community will monitor and review the progress in the peace process," it said. *AFP*

Where does your Meralco bill payment go?

On May 30, 2003, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) approved the unbundling of Meralco's rates. The approval came after more than three years of regulatory evaluation, including the conduct of 55 public hearings participated in by 18 organizations and interested parties. As directed by the ERC, we will be implementing the new rates immediately, beginning with the June 2003 billing cycle.

The unbundling of your Meralco bill complies with Section 36 of Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001. By unbundling or itemizing your bill according to cost and function, it becomes easy to see how much of your payment goes to Meralco—which remains a power distribution company—and how much goes to 'pass-through' charges, or charges that Meralco collects on behalf of the government and power suppliers or power-generating firms.

We see this as a positive, forward-looking step, as this creates more transparency and encourages greater accountability in the power industry.

Generation Charge
(Pass-Through)

This is for the cost of power generated and sold to Meralco by our suppliers, presently the National Power Corporation (NPC) as well as Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Transmission Charge
(Pass-Through)

This is for the delivery of electricity from generators, usually in remote areas or provinces, to the distribution system of Meralco. This goes to the National Transmission Company (TransCo), a company spun off from NPC.

System Loss Charge
(Pass-Through)

This represents recovery of the cost of power lost due to technical and non-technical losses. This is set at a maximum of 9.5%, as provided for by Republic Act 7832.

Distribution Charge
(Meralco)

This is the cost of building, operating and maintaining the distribution system of Meralco, which brings power from high-voltage transmission grids, to commercial and industrial establishments, to residential end-users.

Metering Charge
(Meralco)

This includes the cost of metering, its reading, operation and maintenance of power metering facilities.

Supply Charge
(Meralco)

This includes the cost of rendering service to customers, such as billing, collection, customer assistance and associated services.

Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment
(Meralco)

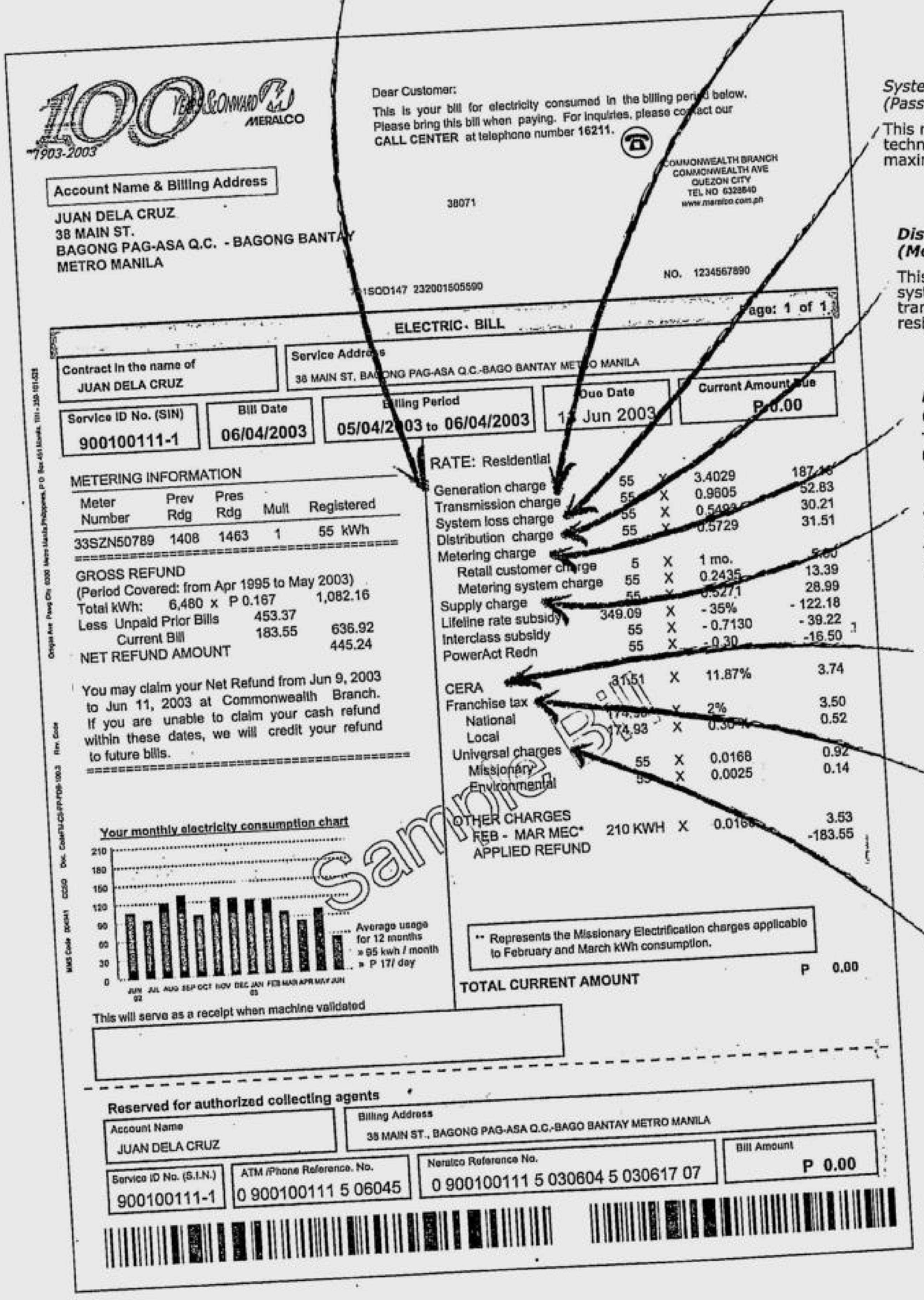
This covers adjustments for unavoidable fluctuations in the Philippine Peso-U.S. Dollar exchange rate.

Franchise Tax
(Pass-Through)

Private utility companies are required to pay national and local franchise taxes. 2% of gross revenues goes to the national government as national franchise tax, while a range of .05% up to .75% of gross revenues goes to local government units in the form of local franchise tax.

Universal Charge
(Pass-Through)

This is a non-bypassable charge remitted to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), owned and controlled by the government, and created by Republic Act 9136. Part of this is now in your Meralco bill as missionary electrification and environmental charges.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Account Name & Billing Address
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38 MAIN ST.
BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C. - BAGONG BANTAY
METRO MANILA

38071

NO. 1234567890

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Page: 1 of 1

ELECTRIC BILL

Contract in the name of JUAN DELA CRUZ	Service Address 38 MAIN ST, BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C.-BAGO BANTAY METRO MANILA			
Service ID No. (SIN) 900100111-1	Bill Date 06/04/2003	Billing Period 05/04/2003 to 06/04/2003	Due Date 1[illegible] Jun 2003	Current Amount Due P0.00

METERING INFORMATION

Meter Number	Prev Rdg	Pres Rdg	Mult	Registered
33SZN50789	1408	1463	1	55 kWh

GROSS REFUND		
(Period Covered: from Apr 1995 to May 2003)		
Total kWh: 6,480 x P 0.167		1,082.16
Less Unpaid Prior Bills	453.37	
Current Bill	183.55	636.92
NET REFUND AMOUNT		445.24

You may claim your Net Refund from Jun 9, 2003 to Jun 11, 2003 at Commonwealth Branch. If you are unable to claim your cash refund within these dates, we will credit your refund to future bills.

Your monthly electricity consumption chart

RATE: Residential

Generation charge	55	X	3.4029	187.[illegible]
Transmission charge	55	X	0.9605	52.83
System loss charge	55	X	0.5493	30.21
Distribution charge	55	X	0.5729	31.51
Metering charge	5	X	1 mo.	5.[illegible]
Retail customer charge	55	X	0.2435	13.39
Metering system charge	55	X	0.5271	28.99
Supply charge	349.09	X	- 35%	- 122.18
Lifeline rate subsidy	55	X	- 0.7130	- 39.22
Interclass subsidy	55	X	- 0.30	-16.50
PowerAct Redn	31.51	X	11.87%	3.74
CERA				
Franchise tax	174.9[illegible]	X	2%	3.50
National	174.93	X	0.30%	0.52
Local				
Universal charges	55	X	0.0168	0.92
Missionary	55	X	0.0025	0.14
Environmental				
OTHER CHARGES				
FEB - MAR MEC*	210 KWH	X	0.0168	3.53
APPLIED REFUND				-183.55

** Represents the Missionary Electrification charges applicable to February and March kWh consumption.

TOTAL CURRENT AMOUNT P 0.00

This will serve as a receipt when machine validated

Reserved for authorized collecting agents

Account Name JUAN DELA CRUZ	Billing Address 38 MAIN ST., BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C.-BAGO BANTAY METRO MANILA		
Service ID No. (S.I.N.) 900100111-1	ATM /Phone Reference. No. 0 900100111 5 06045	Meralco Reference No. 0 900100111 5 030604 5 030617 07	Bill Amount P 0.00

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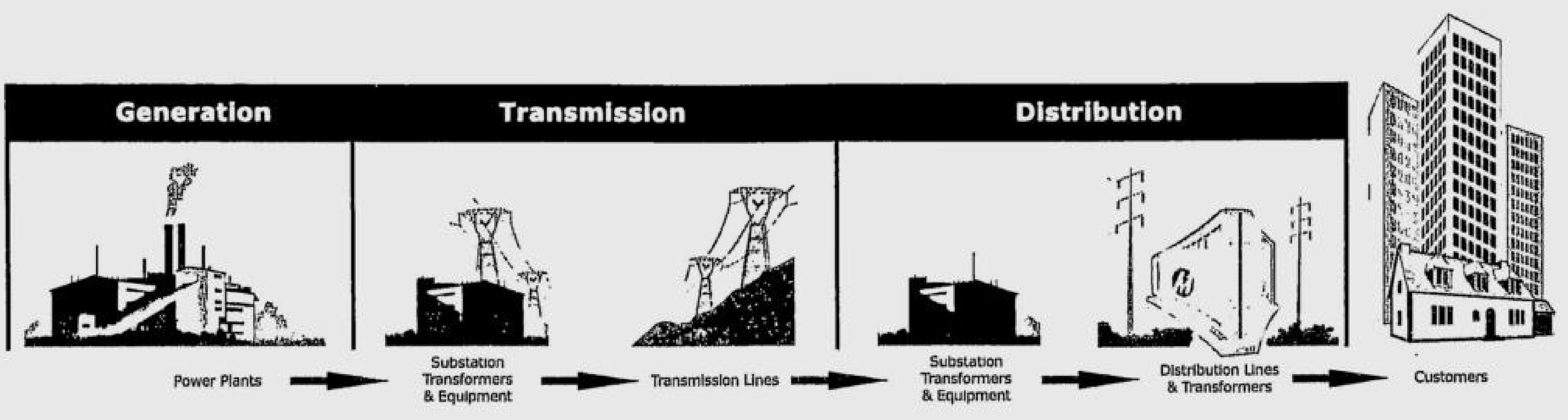
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Protest rallies mark CARP anniversary

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—At least 2,000 farmers yesterday held separate protest actions in Cebu and Iloilo to mark the 15th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

About 1,000 farmers took to the streets of this city, denouncing the government's land reform program as a "total failure."

After marching on the main street, the farmers, led by the Paghugpong sang Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras (Pamanggas), held a picket in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform regional office in La Paz District.

They later mounted another rally at the Plazoletagay with groups allied with the militant multisectoral group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

The farmers came from the Calinog, Janiuay, Maasin, Tubungan, Leon and Dumanggas towns and the island-province of Guimaras. Those from Janiuay, 32.3 kilometers northwest of here, staged a seven-vehicle caravan from the town to this city.

Farmers also held protest rallies in Aklan's capital town of Kalibo, according to Nilo Arado, Pamanggas secretary general.

Landlessness has remained prevalent in the countryside despite government claims of land distribution, Arado said

The total area of land distributed to 186,883 farmers-beneficiaries reached 306,215 hectares as of April 30, 2002, data from the DAR regional office showed. The figures constituted 67.13 percent of the 456,170 ha marked for distribution.

But Arado said the figures were a "sham," noting that they included even those distributed during the Marcos dictatorship.

In Cebu, the more than 1,000 protesting farmers who gathered in front of the Capitol, asked Gov. Pablo Garcia to give them a portion of the provincial government's P51-million calamity fund.

Their representative, Panfilo Arfay, told Garcia that the assistance would help the farmers who were reeling from the long drought brought about by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

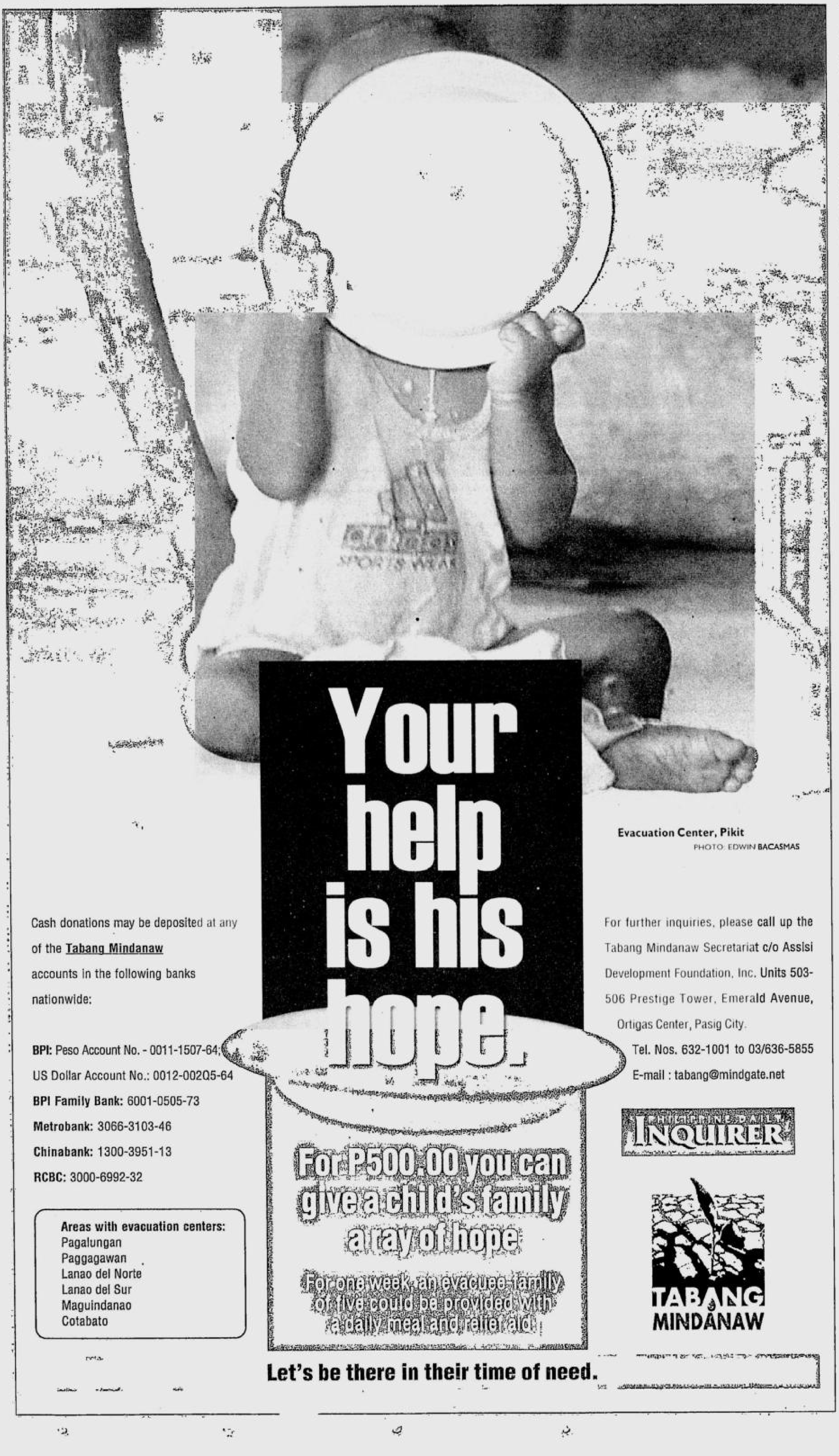
Arfay, head of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chapter in Cebu, said the provincial government should provide each farmer with at least five children with five sacks of rice or corn.

Garcia said he was willing to help the farmers as long as these were formally requested by their municipal councils through a resolution.

The concerned local governments, he added, should countercheck the claims of the farmers.

"However, we have not received any report on the effects on El Niño from the towns. It [report] has not arrived yet, it has always been postponed," the governor said.

Some of the farmers arrived on Monday and spent the night on the Capitol grounds.



Your help is his hope.

Evacuation Center, Pikit
PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS

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BPI: Peso Account No. - 0011-1507-64;
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BPI Family Bank: 6001-0505-73
Metrobank: 3066-3103-46
Chinabank: 1300-3951-13
RCBC: 3000-6992-32

Areas with evacuation centers:
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Lanao del Sur
Maguindanao
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For P500.00 you can give a child's family a ray of hope

For one week, an evacuee family of five could be provided with a daily meal and relief aid.

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Program failed, say farmers in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Farmers in Pampanga said the government's 15-year-old Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has failed and was "still a farce."

"Then as now, large landholdings remained in the control of landlords," said Joseph Canlas, president of the farmers group Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan, during a picket held at the regional Department of Agrarian Reform office on Tuesday.

More than 50 farmers from the Pampanga chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas joined the activity held on the CARP's 15th anniversary.

Canlas said thousands of farmers in Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province, still did not have security of ownership or tenure on lands they till.

The protesters cited the area occupied by the 2,000-hectare Cong Dadong Dam (Pampanga Delta Development Project-Irrigation Component) in Arayat and the 43,000-ha Clark Special Economic Zone north of Pampanga.

These government-owned lands do not provide maximum benefits to farmers or consider them in the overall development plan, they said.

Canlas said the "rampant" conversion of agricultural lands into shopping malls, residential subdivisions and golf courses has reduced areas for food production.

This, he noted, was also "a form of driving out the farmers or stealing from them the lands they tilled for years."

Canlas said the absence of genuine agrarian reform had maintained a backward agricultural economy that was further impoverished by "pro-foreign liberal policies" in agriculture, fisheries and mining sectors.

During the picket, he raised alarm over a move in Congress to amend the Constitution, adding that the provisions on national patrimony were among the targets for scrapping.

DAR regional officials said they would hold a dialogue with leaders of people's organizations and nongovernment organizations on June 16. The implementation of the CARP will be discussed in the dialogue, they said.

Government rice import program for farmers cited

NATIONAL Food Authority administrator Arthur C. Yap lauded efforts of Agriculture Secretary Jose "Cito" Lorenzo to improve the economic conditions of the farmers.

In a statement, Yap said Lorenzo was "the prime mover in the effort to equip the farmers in the nuances of international rice trading and affording them the opportunity to import rice through the Farmers as Importers (FAI) program.

He belied accusations that the secretary wanted to pull out the rice import program for the farmers.

Lorenzo, he said, "simply wants farmers groups which got rice import allocations to speed up the importation so they can contribute in the country's food security, especially that the lean period is set to begin in barely three weeks."

In allowing the farmers to import rice, the government also wants them to be its "partner in assuring the country's food security," Yap said.

"In the desire to fast-track the shipment of imported rice by the farmers, Secretary Lorenzo knows that any delay in the shipment arrivals will definitely affect the country's rice situation," he said.

NPA rebels free Army sergeant reported dead

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels on Monday released an Army sergeant, who was reported by the military to have died in an ambush in Davao Oriental last year, to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Fr. Ben Alforque of the Butuan Diocese.

The rebels, led by Ka Paston Manggubat of the New People's Army's Ruperto Tuyoc Command, held Sgt. Ramiro Lawas of the First Scout Ranger Regiment for 14 months before finally deciding to hand him over to Duterte and Alforque in an undisclosed area in Compostela Valley.

Lawas was captured on April 4, 2002 when heavily armed NPA rebels ambushed a military convoy in Barangay Nabunga in Boston, Davao Oriental. Ten soldiers were killed while 12 others were wounded in the attack.

Lawas was declared missing in action and was later reported dead.

Sporting a clean haircut and appearing to be healthy, Lawas said he was surprised when he learned about his "death." But he said he was not blaming anyone.

Recalling the ambush, Lawas said he fought the rebels even though he realized he was already alone at that time.

He said he tried to "hold the line" but eventually ran out of bullets. Later, he found himself surrounded by the rebels.

Lawas, of Panibasan in Maco, Compostela Valley, has been in the military service for 22 years. He has four children.

Jorge Madlos, rebel spokesperson for Mindanao, said Lawas was treated well under the International Humanitarian Law.

Madlos said the policy of lenient treatment of "war prisoners" was applied on Lawas.

"In his 14-month period of detention, the custodial force and the party cadres and the Red guerrilla officers who supervised the camp for the administration of detainees strictly observed the 1998 GRP-NDF comprehensive agreement on respect for human rights and international Humanitarian Law and the basic rules of the New People's Army," Ka Oris said.

Northern Samar

In Northern Samar, a suspected NPA member was killed in an encounter with Army soldiers on Saturday in San Jose de Buan town.

Col. Cesar Tiongson, commanding officer of the 803rd Infantry Brigade based in Catarman, Northern Samar, identified the fatality as Filencio Gabin, who allegedly belonged to the Central Front Committee 1 in Samar.

In his report to Maj. Gen. Glen Rabonza, chief of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, Tiongson said Gabin's body was turned over to the barangay chair of Gusa, Amodo Pecenio.

He said the suspect was killed in an encounter with soldiers belonging to the 34th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Gusa, about 5 km from the town proper, at 7 a.m.

In his report, Tiongson said the soldiers were patrolling the vicinity of Gusa when they chanced upon Gabin and two others demanding some provisions from the residents.

The alleged rebels, he said, fired at the government troops. An exchange of gunfire ensued.

Gabin was hit and killed, while his two companions escaped, Tiongson said.

Recovered from the scene was one M-16 magazine and a .38 cal. revolver. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ARMY Sgt. Ramiro Lawas (left), who was reported to have been killed in a New People's Army ambush in Davao Oriental last year, bids farewell to his rebel custodians upon his release. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Just joking, Pikit mayor says of plan to send bulldozers to evacuation sites

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Mayor Bai Farida Malingco of Pikit, North Cotabato, and her husband said they were only joking when they quipped that they would send a bulldozer in every evacuation center in their town if the evacuees refused to go home.

Malingco said in a telephone interview that they could not afford to do such a drastic move against the evacuees who have experienced hardship because of the war. The evacuees are actually their supporters and followers, she said.

"We cannot do that [level evacuation centers]. Of course, we were only joking," she said.

She added that they had to use such tactic of intimidation in order for the evacuees to return home.

"But we were serious when we told them to go back because if not, they cannot expect help from us. We will really stop giving them food assistance if they won't go back home," she said.

What appeared to be a strategy to forcibly bring the evacuees back to their original villages turned effective. Around 1,000 families have finally settled back to their villages as of yesterday, Malingco said.

She added that they were expecting more or less 3,000 families to return to their homes yesterday afternoon.

Malingco denied speculations that they were trying to clear evacuation centers in Pikit to "sanitize" the town because President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference were coming.

She said that they wanted to clear the evacuation centers now because it was already safe to go home. She also stressed that the evacuees have developed the sense of dependency on government and nongovernment organizations' assistance.

"They don't have [a] future in the evacuation center. We cannot allow them to stay in those congested camps anymore," she said.

But while agreeing that it was already safe for the evacuees to go home, Pikit Parish Interreligious Dialogue coordinator Fr. Roberto Layson, OMI, said it was wrong to "threaten" the evacuees.

"It was not properly done. It appeared that they were forced. I think the manner of persuasion was offensive," Layson said.

Layson said he doubted if Malingco could actually carry out the threats against the evacuees. But if the Malingcos were out to bulldoze and harm the evacuees, Layson said, that was something that they would not allow.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, through Central Committee Information Officer Mohagher Iqbal, however, said the Malingcos were putting the lives of the evacuees in danger.

Cops arrest 4 Palawan rob suspects

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police have arrested four suspected members of a notorious robbery syndicate that took P1.5 million in cash and assorted jewelry from a pawnshop in Brooke's Point, Palawan last week.

Senior Supt. Alexander Lapinid, police director of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), identified the suspects as Julio Col-ing, 39, of Baguio City; Domingo Lagadan, 23, of Mt. Province; Teddy Castro, 26, of Quirino, Ilocos Sur; and Lito Diego, 31, of Del Pilar, Ilocos Sur.

Col-ing was collared in Puerto Princesa City, while the rest were captured at Pier 2 in Manila's North Harbor.

"We are at present validating our records to see if the four are really members of the dreaded Cold Chisel Gang that uses chisels to unfasten safety padlocks of buildings and offices. If they are, this is a big loss for their syndicate," Lapinid said.

The group is said to have victimized business establishments in Southern Tagalog, "since they are conspicuously residing in Imus, Cavite," he added.

Police said the suspects barged into the Palawan Pawnshop in Brooke's Point in the early morning of Jan. 5 after picking the padlocks.

Arresting officers led by Supt. Paul Tucay said residents in the area who saw the suspects leaving the pawnshop quickly called the town police. The provincial police command immediately sent a team to run after the suspects.

Tucay said a witness identified Col-ing as one of the men seen leaving the shop.

The suspect was boarding a Manila-bound ship when he was arrested. Police found P500,000 worth of assorted jewelry in his bag.

During police interrogation, Col-ing reportedly admitted to robbing the pawnshop and that he was with three other suspects who were already Manila-bound aboard a Negros Navigation ship.

DepEd seeks titles for school land donations in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY—Plagued by classroom shortage, the city's Department of Education on Monday asked the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to issue titles to school land parcels donated by indigenous Filipino communities in the Cordillera.

Julius Bangnan, chief of regional secondary schools division, said most of the parcels where Cordillera schools were built have remained untitled because these were covered by a law that classifies real estate with 18-degree slopes as forest land.

Over 90 percent of Cordillera land, including schools within the city, are covered by Presidential Decree 705, which freezes the sale of land with slopes that are 18 degrees and above.

As a consequence, most of 1,200 elementary schools and high schools in the region are now the subject of court cases filed by residents who are either staking their claims or are reclaiming these donated properties, Bangnan said.

Even officials of the Mt. Province State Polytechnic College had complained about claims over its property.

A college representative told Evelyn Dunuan, former NCIP chair and commissioner for North Luzon, that both stakeholders and the protected areas and wildlife division have started to sue for properties within the campus because the college straddles portions of Mt. Data.

But the college is more concerned about the land claims of the Mohanon clan along the borders of Data, a national reserve.

Dunuan on Monday conducted an Ipra briefing for the regional development council here.

She said the agency could only issue Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) to indigenous claimants, not institutions.

But she said the NCIP would raise the problem to Malacañang.

Last week, the DepEd announced that it was facing a shortage of 1,142 classrooms, which would have accommodated a projected enrollment increase of 1 percent this year representing 220,873 new pupils.

High schools in the city require 274 more classrooms, Bangnan said. Cordillera high schools, on the other hand, are confronting a shortage of 928 classrooms this school year.

Bangnan said he was aware that the NCIP may not have the authority to title government properties, "but I felt it was necessary to ask for that option."

He said the DepEd had checked school lots offered by new donors, but found these properties already occupied. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 394 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Setting up of media crisis center proposed in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—Multisectoral representatives, who attended a dialogue held here last Friday in the wake of a series of killings of journalists, said the crimes not only violated the victims' basic human right to life but were also aimed at suppressing the truth.

The latest victim was radio broadcaster John Villanueva of Camalig, Albay.

The dialogue was conducted by the Center for Community Journalism and Development, Philippine Information Agency and Social Action Center of Legazpi. It was attended by journalists representing over 25 local radio and TV stations, and newspapers in the region, and personalities representing the police, local governments, labor, transport, human rights groups, urban poor, farmers and fisherfolk.

The participants agreed to set up a media crisis intervention center in order to take care of the legal and paralegal tangles that beset journalists in their daily work. Funding could come from private and government agencies.

The participants turned down a suggestion by media practitioners from Sorsogon to bear arms. They instead agreed to form a partnership in monitoring crimes in the region and supporting law enforcers in the strict implementation of gun regulations. *Roly Embile, Southern Luzon Bureau*

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TUGAS STORE
ENTRANCE
CALASIAO

Why Pangasinan went under water

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Calasiao, Pangasinan

FOR YEARS, the government has concentrated on taming the waters of the mighty Agno River, which traverses 17 towns of Pangasinan.

For years, too, the Agno River, into which excess waters from the Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet are released during the rainy months, is always blamed for the massive flooding of the province.

Authorities acknowledge that the 110-kilometer Agno River is the culprit in the annual flooding along the Agno plains. Thus, they have embarked on multibillion-peso projects aimed at keeping the water in the river.

One project is the P7-billion Agno and Allied River Urgent Rehabilitation Project (AARURP) designed to prevent river water from spilling into the plains.

Phase I of the project, which has a budget of P1.9 billion, covers the Bayambang-Lingayen portion and is now 98 percent complete, said Fidel Ginez, project manager of the Agno Flood Control Office (Afco) and acting assistant regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

It also includes revetment work for the upper Sinocalan River.

Ginez said Phase II's Package 3, which is the social development component, and Package 4, which is the construction of the Hector Mendoza Bridge in Alcala town, are being implemented. Phase II, with a P3-billion budget, covers Bayambang to Alcala, including Paniqui and Moncada towns in nearby Tarlac.

But Packages 1 and 2, which include the construction of a closure dike along Agno River in Alcala, have yet to be started because of some legal questions.

Phase III, to cover Alcala to San Manuel, is still awaiting a P2-billion fund.

Then there's the $1.2-billion San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project (SRMDP), which is designed to impound extra water from the Binga and Ambuklao dams.

The National Power Corp., which operates the dams, and San Roque Power Corp., which owns the SRMDP, insisted that there was no release of water during the onslaught of tropical storm "Chedeng," thus saving the flood plains of the Agno River.

Skeptical

However, some mayors led by Dagupan City's Benjamin Lim, are skeptical about the claims of both the Napocor and the SRMDP. Lim said Speaker Jose de Venecia, who represents the fourth district of Pangasinan, has instructed him to coordinate with Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani in looking into the causes of the recent floods.

On June 20, the provincial board will question the SRMDP, Napocor and Afco on the causes of the flooding.

The mayors of towns traversed by the Agno River asserted that the river quietly ran its course as Chedeng was ravaging the province.

"I was at the Gualsic Dike along the Agno River and water was nine meters below the dike, unlike in 1998 when typhoon 'Gading' devastated the province that it was only about three meters below and the water was really rampaging," said Malasiqui Mayor Alfonso Soriano.

Bayambang Mayor Leocadio de Vera Jr. echoed Soriano's observation. He said there were only 17 villages flooded in the town but the flood did not come from the Agno River. "Agno was very calm," he said.

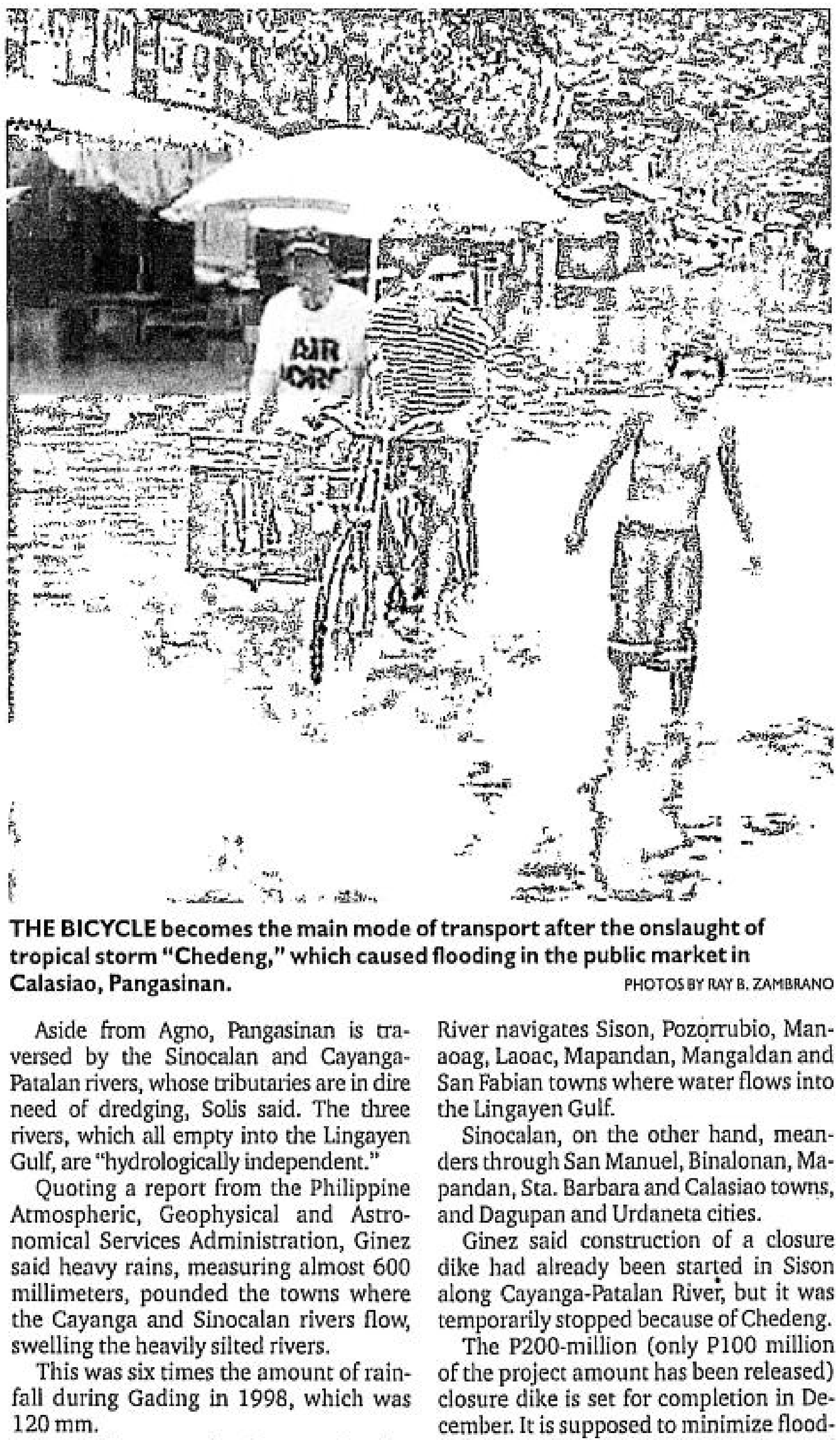
San Manuel Mayor Salvador Perez also claimed that the SRMDP did not release water, saying he had "spies" at the dam site who would tell him if water was released.

In Lingayen, fishpond owners said for the first time in years, their ponds did not overflow and that their cultured fish were saved.

So where did the water that submerged almost the entire province come from?

2 river systems

What authorities seemed to have overlooked was that Pangasinan is traversed by two other major river systems, said provincial administrator Virgilio Solis.



THE BICYCLE becomes the main mode of transport after the onslaught of tropical storm "Chedeng," which caused flooding in the public market in Calasiao, Pangasinan. PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Aside from Agno, Pangasinan is traversed by the Sinocalan and Cayanga-Patalan rivers, whose tributaries are in dire need of dredging, Solis said. The three rivers, which all empty into the Lingayen Gulf, are "hydrologically independent."

Quoting a report from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Ginez said heavy rains, measuring almost 600 millimeters, pounded the towns where the Cayanga and Sinocalan rivers flow, swelling the heavily silted rivers.

This was six times the amount of rainfall during Gading in 1998, which was 120 mm.

From Benguet, the Cayanga-Patalan River navigates Sison, Pozorrubio, Manaoag, Laoac, Mapandan, Mangaldan and San Fabian towns where water flows into the Lingayen Gulf.

Sinocalan, on the other hand, meanders through San Manuel, Binalonan, Mapandan, Sta. Barbara and Calasiao towns, and Dagupan and Urdaneta cities.

Ginez said construction of a closure dike had already been started in Sison along Cayanga-Patalan River, but it was temporarily stopped because of Chedeng.

The P200-million (only P100 million of the project amount has been released) closure dike is set for completion in December. It is supposed to minimize flooding in the fourth and third districts and part of the fifth district.

There was also a plan to dike the Tuboy River (part of the Sinocalan) in San Manuel and part of the Sinocalan in Sta. Barbara. But Ginez said the project has no funding yet.

Lack of funds

He said his office had very limited budget for flood control projects. He said plans should also be updated for the Cayanga-Patalan River, which exits in San Fabian, and the Sinocalan River, which flows into the Pantal River in Dagupan, the area that suffered the most during the recent floods.

The Afco, however, has started dredging the Sabangan River, the mouth of the Pantal River. "But we are still waiting for P37 million needed to complete the dredging of the 15-km river," Ginez said.

Also to be blamed for the floods are the clogged canals, especially in Dagupan and Urdaneta.

Rosendo So, a businessman operating in Urdaneta, said after the floods, the roads were littered with garbage that had clogged the waterways.

So's Nice Place Restaurant, which did not go under water, served as an evacuation center for travelers stranded by floods in the city.

Perez, the mayor of San Manuel, said that just months ago, he had the Bislak and Colobong rivers in the town proper dredged. This could have saved the town, which usually gets flooded yearly.

"It's really the responsibility of the local governments to have their rivers regularly dredged," he said.

Calasiao Mayor Roy Macanlalay, who reported that all 24 villages of his town went under an average of a meter of water, agreed that all the rivers in the province should be dredged.

"We need backhoes to scour the rivers of silt. Let's stop building those dikes that get washed out during rainy days. Let's just do some honest-to-goodness dredging," he said.

Agbayani said the provincial government had entered into a memorandum of agreement with 11 farmer groups to reforest the riverbanks. This, he said, could help absorb heavy rainwater.

Paskuhan Village revived as Nayong Pilipino of North

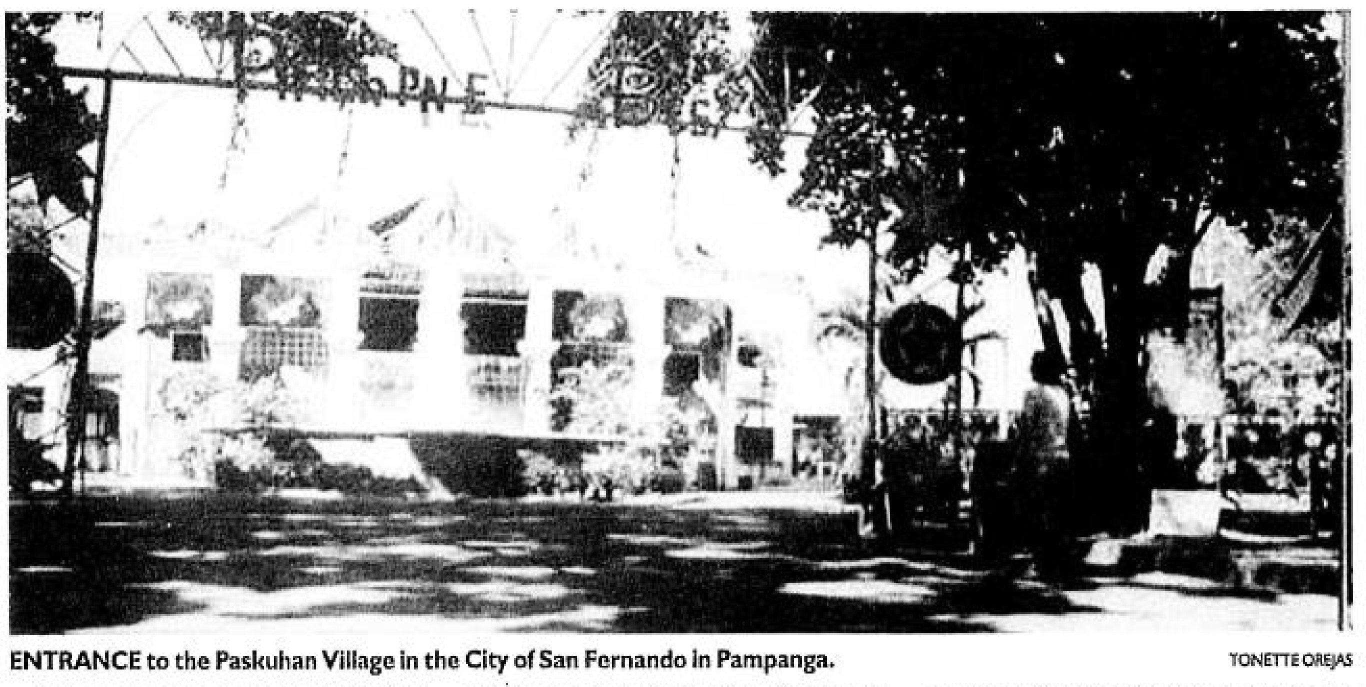
By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

AFTER transforming Intramuros as the country's central showcase for Visit Philippines 2003, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is reviving the Paskuhan Village in the City of San Fernando as the Nayong Pilipino of North Luzon.

Gordon said the planned makeover would not scrap the entire Christmas concept of the Paskuhan, which the Aquino administration, through the late Gov. Bren Guiao, built in 1990.

Renamed the Philippine Christmas Village in 1998, the 9.3-hectare complex hosted former first lady Amelita Ramos' Gardens of the World or Florikultura.

Built in the city where craftsmen make giant lanterns, Paskuhan, which showcases the Filipino Christmas tradition and products, is the first of its kind in Asia and the third in the world.



ENTRANCE to the Paskuhan Village in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga. TONETTE OREJAS

"We want to save it, maintain the facilities in high standards," Gordon told Pampanga mayors in a recent meeting.

He held the meeting two weeks after his unannounced inspection of Paskuhan. After seeing the piles of garbage, the murky water at the lagoon and other signs of neglect, Gordon warned officials of the Philippine Tourism Authority to work or lose their jobs. The Paskuhan had been spruced up since.

Gordon told the mayors and their representatives that the rehabilitation of the Paskuhan did not have adequate funds from the national government.

According to him, the effort will have to be complemented by volunteerism from local governments and the private sector.

As the original features like the flower gardens and other amenities are retained and spruced up, local governments in North Luzon will maintain exhibit and sales booths showcasing the culture, crafts and products from their towns and cities, Gordon said.

Transformed as the Philippine Cultural Village in North Luzon, the Paskuhan will complement the nearby SM City Pampanga and Robinsons Starmills.

The Department of Tourism will seek the construction of an access lane for southbound vehicles, Gordon said. To date, Paskuhan is only accessible through the San Fernando exit of the North Luzon Expressway.

Pampanga officials supported Gordon's proposal, with San Fernando Mayor Reynaldo Aquino saying the revival of Paskuhan was long overdue.

GMA vows to build enduring peace in South

From page A1

of bombers and murderers," and vowed there can be no peace with terrorists.

"We cannot have a principled peace if one side is contaminated with the stigma of terrorism," Ms Macapagal said.

The MILF has denied involvement in recent bombings, and blamed the military for initiating fighting. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the group was not inclined to extend the ceasefire "unless we receive reciprocal action from the government."

He said the MILF had not received any notice that the government intended to join the ceasefire.

Despite sporadic fighting, violence appears to have largely subsided during the last week. Amid signs that peace talks with the rebels might resume, Ms Macapagal last week encouraged Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to continue acting as the main peace broker, and said she also wanted Washington to be more actively engaged.

She did not directly declare the reopening of talks with the MILF in her 16-minute arrival speech, but she did say the remaining years of her administration "will be a unique opportunity for building the foundation of the government's framework of peace and development."

"Our government is committed to building an enduring peace in Mindanao within the framework of the Constitution. Such peace can be obtained and preserved through political solution," she said.

Guaranteeing peace

Ms Macapagal said the government must have the means to fully guarantee the eventual compliance on the ground of "whatever might be the terms of our political settlement of the armed conflict in Mindanao."

"While we welcome and expect sincerity and discipline ... the AFP and PNP must have the full capacity and means to protect our communities and enforce our laws without solely relying on the sincerity and strength of other parties," she said.

A CAULDRON of hot food is not for the taking—not just yet—for a row of hungry children who must wait their turn at the evacuation center in Pikit, North Cotabato. EDWIN BACASMAS

Even if government talks peace, Ms Macapagal said, government will not allow terrorist attacks to go unpunished.

"Even if we talk patiently, we will not tolerate terrorism to exist in our country's territory," she said.

"Peace can be advanced by patient and sincere dialogue, backed by our government's capacity to enforce the legal authority of our Constitution," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she believed the armed conflict in Mindanao was caused by many factors, including injustice, poverty and economic exclusion.

The President is visiting several cities in Mindanao. During her weeklong stay, she said she would focus on preparations for the opening of school, implementing key infrastructure projects in transport, highways and communications and accelerating tourism and livelihood, improving law enforcement and police administration.

"I realize that one week of effort even by the whole national government wouldn't solve the massive and longstanding problems we face in Mindanao. But I'm hopeful that our many strong and committed partners in Mindanao's peace and development will vastly amplify our efforts," she added.

From the airport, the President proceeded to the Marco Polo Hotel, where she held a closed-door Cabinet meeting.

Today, she is scheduled to motor to Malungon, Sarangani, to inaugurate the Upper Mainit-San Roque Bridge.

The 30-meter, two-lane steel bridge is part of the Austrian-assisted Presidents Bridge Program (PBP II) through the Department of Interior and Local Government and the provincial government of Sarangani.

After the inauguration, the President will proceed to the General Santos City Fish Port Complex, where a lunch meeting with local officials and a press conference will be held.

She will be spending the night in General Santos City.

On June 12, she will lead the flag-raising ceremony in front of the City Hall for the celebration of Independence Day, before flying to Zamboanga City, where she will hold a command conference.

On Friday, she will depart for Maguindanao where she would inaugurate a government project in Datu Odin Sinsuat and another in SK Pendatun town. She will spend the night in Cotabato City.

The following day, the President will meet with about 5,000 teachers in Marawi City before proceeding to Iligan City where she would lead the inauguration of Baying Central Elementary School. She will then proceed to Butuan City to inspect bus terminals there before flying back to Manila.

Reports by Joel Escovilla, Dennis Jay Santos, Anthony Allada and Aquiles Zonio, with reports from TJ Burgonio; AFP, AP

MILF not ready for peace

IN CAMP Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces said yesterday the MILF did not seem to be ready for peace talks because its ground forces have carried out several terrorist acts despite declaring a unilateral truce.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, AFP chief public information officer, said the military had recorded at least four cases of terrorist acts by separatist rebels since the MILF hierarchy declared a 10-day ceasefire on June 2.

These were the June 4 planting of an improvised explosive device at a radio station in Kidapawan City; the June 5 seizure of a dump truck owned by an engineer in Basilan; the June 6 toppling of Transco wooden posts in Koronadal and the planting of a bomb under a bridge linking Cotabato City and Sultan Kudarat.

"These are terrorist activities by the MILF," he said. "With these incidents for the past eight days, it looks like they have not denounced and refrained from conducting terrorism. They're still doing it."

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF public information officer, said the movement would resume attacks tomorrow unless the government joins the ceasefire.

"The central committee is closely watching the development on the ground. The government has two more days to show its sincerity in the peace process, otherwise the MILF would resume its war footing against the military," he said.

Lt. Col. Hernando Iriberri, commander of the 25th Infantry Battalion, said his men led by Lt. Robert Betita were conducting a combat patrol at 7:45 a.m. in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, when they chanced upon around 30 rebels. Iriberri said none of his men were hurt during the 15-minute gun battle but some rebels were either killed or wounded.

Tongue-lashing ...

From page A1

temper.

He said that LTO personnel were not incompetent, and that the complaint that they had been leaving their posts at 4 p.m., an hour before the end of office hours, was unfounded.

According to Lastimoso, LTO collection windows usually close at 4 p.m. to allow cashiers to balance payments and deliver these in time for the 4:30 p.m. deadline of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

"The truth is, our people stay in the office until 7 p.m. to finish their work for the day," Lastimoso told the INQUIRER.

He made similar remarks in an interview with radio station dzBB yesterday morning.

By late yesterday afternoon, Lastimoso had changed his tone. He told the INQUIRER that he did not say Ms Macapagal had been fed "misinformation." He also denied saying that the President should not have blown her top.

"We actually welcome the criticism made by the President," he said. "It is a wake-up call for us to keep our personnel always on their toes."

Ms Macapagal paid a surprise visit to the LTO headquarters on East Avenue, Quezon City, at around 4 p.m. Monday.

She berated Lastimoso's executive assistant Mariano Gui—and later when he arrived, Lastimoso himself—about the supposed incompetence of LTO personnel and the alleged presence of fixers.

She angrily noted the absence of security screening, as well as the fact that the LTO was selling early warning devices at P485 each when these could be bought elsewhere for only P150 each.

Lastimoso told the INQUIRER yesterday morning that he should not have been rebuked for not being at the LTO when the President got there.

He said he was at a meeting with members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and had to rush back to his office.

He claimed that Gui and other LTO officials had tried to respond to Ms Macapagal's scolding but were rendered helpless by kibitzers and media people.

"When I got to the LTO, I tried to explain to the President but she was already very angry at that time," he said.

Nevertheless, Lastimoso said he "welcomed the visit" and promised to address the issues that angered the President.

He said the LTO would ask Land Bank to assign additional personnel to accept deposits after 5 p.m.

He also said he had rushed a memorandum suspending the controversial requirement that only vehicles with early warning devices purchased from the LTO would be allowed to register.

Starting yesterday, two of the LTO's three gates were ordered closed. Only the East Avenue gate remained open to the public.

Guards were stationed at every gate.

The Special Task Force led by Col. Eliseo de la Paz was ordered to patrol the premises to ensure that all those coming in had official business to transact.

An intelligence group was assigned to keep an eye on LTO employees. Those proven to be conducting illegal transactions face immediate dismissal.

Lastimoso also clarified that LTO employees were under a flexible 8-hour working schedule.

But he said that effective yesterday, all employees, especially those at the front line including the cashier and those involved in registration and licensing, had been told to stay until 5 p.m.

He said licensing personnel usually stayed until 5 p.m. or sometimes as late as 7 p.m., but that they stopped accepting payments at 4 p.m. to prepare the collection report. This, he said, could have been why Ms Macapagal thought LTO personnel were knocking off at 4 p.m.

Lastimoso also said he had ordered the LTO section chiefs to be responsible for cleanliness in their areas.

"We cannot control the volume and classes of people going in and out of the compound," he said. "They are usually the ones who litter the area."

Dahil umiwas sila sa anay, napalapit sila sa swerte!

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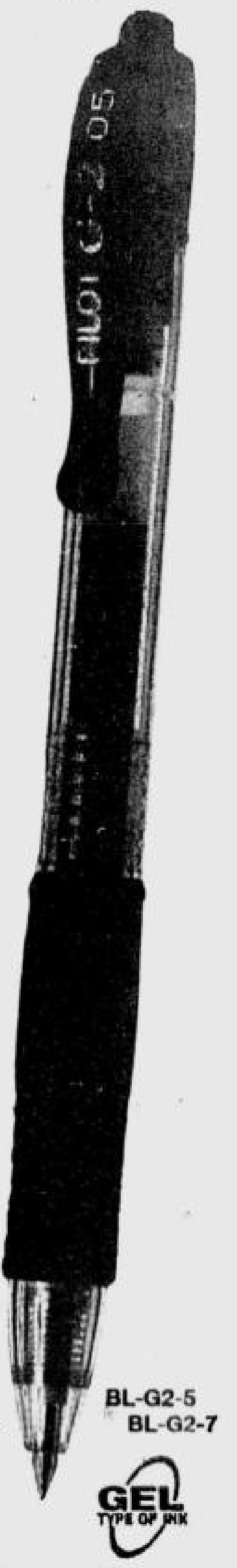

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End of the world 50-50 probability?

From page A1

biggest "bioerror" of them all accidentally trigger a matter-squeezing "big bang."

The demise of civilization has been predicted since it began, but the odds of keeping Planet Earth alive and well are getting worse amid a break-neck pace of scientific advances, according to Martin Rees, Britain's honorary astronomer royal.

Rees calculated that the odds of an apocalyptic disaster striking Earth have risen to about 50 percent from 20 percent 100 years ago.

The 60-year-old scientist, author of the recently published "Our Final Hour," said science had been advancing in a far more unpredictable and potentially dangerous pattern than ever before.

He listed as mankind's biggest threats: nuclear terrorism, deadly engineered viruses, rogue machines and genetic engineering that could alter human character. All of those could result from innocent error or the action of a single malevolent individual.

By 2020, an instance of bioterror or bioerror will have killed a million people, according to Rees, a professor at Britain's Cambridge University.

"There is a growing gap between doors that are open and doors that should be open," Rees said in an interview.

The cosmologist conceded that natural disasters had always loomed—so-called supervolcanoes could explode at any time and asteroids could slam into the planet, causing massive climate changes.

But Rees said the most frightening risks would probably be man-made.

"A hundred years ago, the nuclear threat wasn't even predicted . . . but that threat still hasn't gone away," he said.

The arms race, after all, has been fueled by science, and the field has a responsibility to inform a wide public of the risks in deciding how to apply scientific breakthroughs, he added.

Biotechnology

"For the first time ever, human nature itself isn't fixed. Biotech drugs and genetic engineering are empowering individuals more than ever before," Rees said.

With rapidly advancing DNA technology, "even a single person could cause a disaster," Rees warned, noting that the United States is well aware of this threat following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and anthrax scare.

Thousands of people have the ability to engineer viruses and bacteria to cause deadly plagues. Even if one such "weirdo" didn't kill many people, that type of biological terrorism would profoundly change daily life, the scientist said.

Nanotechnology—the subject of a recent Michael Crichton thriller about the havoc caused by runaway microscopic machines—is also a potent threat, he said.

If the field advances far enough, rogue self-replicating nanotechnology machines—feeding on organic material and spreading like pollen—could devastate a continent within a few days, Rees said.

The dangers of global warming are also addressed in the book, subtitled "A scientist's warning: How terror, error, and environmental disaster threaten humankind's future in this century—on Earth and beyond."

Rees does not discount the possibility of disaster caused by scientific experiments involving particle accelerators. "Perhaps a back hole could form, and then suck in everything around it," he cautioned.

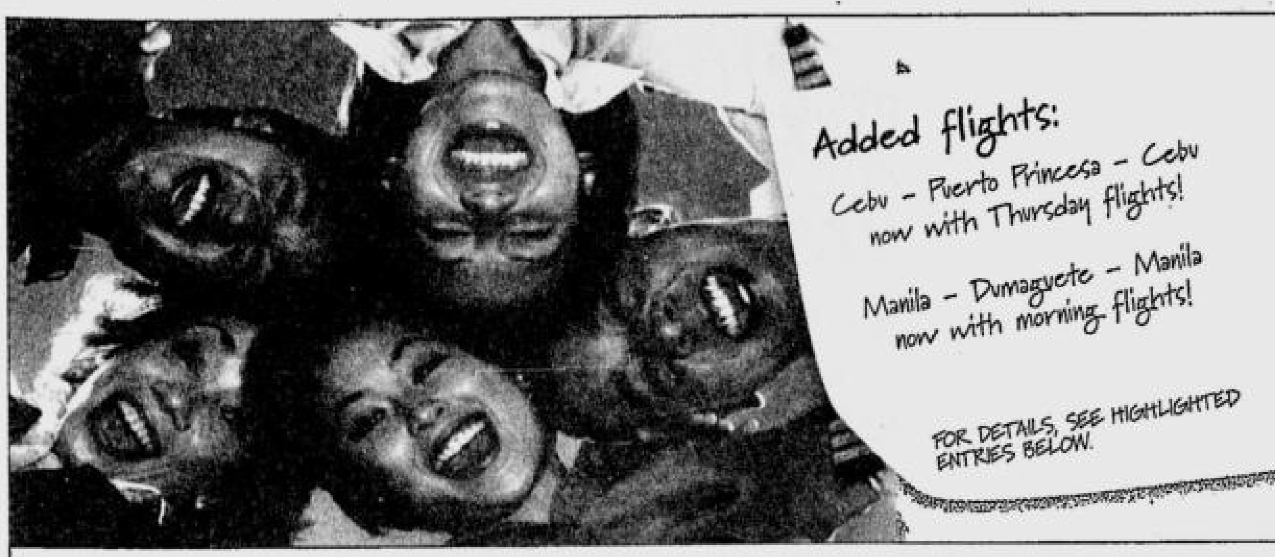
Regulation

So what's to be done?

Rees called for better regulation and inspection of sensitive data and experiments.

"We need to keep track of those who have potentially lethal knowledge," he said.

He also suggested better efforts to "reduce the number of people who feel excluded or otherwise motivated to cause harm." *Reuters*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	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			
	5J - 577	Th/Su	B757	1325	1435			
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	5J - 569	Daily	B757	1500	1610	P2,899	P2,569	
	5J - 569**	Daily	B757	1500	1610	-	P2,899	
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DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	B757	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	
	5J - 961**	Daily	B757	0500	0640		P3,667	
	5J - 963	Daily	B757	1020	1200	P3,667	P3,239	P2,519
	5J - 963**	Daily	B757	1020	1200	-	P3,667	
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500	P3,667	P3,239	
	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1540	1720			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	P2,519
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	P2,099
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0520	0620	P2,779	P2,449	P1,899*
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0620	0720			P2,049
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1520	1620			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P2,779	P2,449	P1,899*
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			P2,049
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0520	0650	P3,667	P3,239	P2,399*
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,149	P1,999
DUMAGUETE	5J - 625	Daily	DC9	0530	0640	P2,899	P2,569	P1,769
	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1240	1350			
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0950	1040	P2,899	P2,569	P2,049
	5J - 343	Daily	DC9	1330	1420			
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	0900	1025	P3,645	P3,239	P2,569
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J - 637	Daily	DC9	0730	0840	P2,899	P2,499	P2,049
	5J - +/227	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	-	1225			

** Promotional Value fare ** Cebu Class + via Cebu 5J 557/559/561/563*

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 556	M/F	B757	0300	0410	P2,899	P1,899*	
	5J - 556**	M/F	B757	0300	0410	-	P2,899	
	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0400	0510	P2,899	P1,899*	
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810		P2,569	
	5J - 562	Mon	DC9	0900	1010			
	5J - 562**	Tu-Sun	B757	0900	1010	-	P2,899	P2,049
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210	P2,899	P2,569	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	B757	1700	1810			
	5J - 570**	Daily	B757	1700	1810	-	P2,899	
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010	P2,899	P2,569	
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0815	0905	P2,589	P2,249	P1,949
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/F/Sat	DC9	0905	1000	P2,649	P2,319	P1,999
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1710	1745	P2,099	P1,759	P1,549
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P1,879	P1,539	P1,349
BUTUAN	5J - 223	M/W/Sat	DC9	1220	1300	P1,839	P1,499	P1,299
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J - 227	Tu/Th/F/Sun	DC9	1115	1225	P2,899	P2,499	P2,049

** Promotional Value fare ** Cebu Class*

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	B757	0740	0920	P3,667	P3,239	
	5J - 962**	Daily	B757	0740	0920	-	P3,667	
	5J - 964	Daily	B757	1300	1440	P3,667	P3,239	P2,519
	5J - 964**	Daily	B757	1300	1440	-	P3,667	
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1620	1800	P3,667	P3,239	
	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1800	1940			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0945	1035	P2,589	P2,249	P1,949
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1540	1630			
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1540	1745	P3,645	P3,195	-
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	Tu/Th/Sun	DC9	0910	1010	P2,649	P2,319	P1,999

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,149	P1,999

THROUGH FARE FLIGHTS VIA CEBU

DESTINATION	NORMAL		VALUE	
	ONE-WAY	ROUNDTRIP	ONE-WAY	ROUNDTRIP
PUERTO PRINCESA - BACOLOD	P2,899	P5,798	P2,569	P5,138
PUERTO PRINCESA - ILOILO	P2,899	P5,798	P2,569	P5,138
PUERTO PRINCESA - BUTUAN	P3,649	P7,298	P3,239	P6,478
PUERTO PRINCESA - DAVAO	P3,649	P7,298	P3,239	P6,478
PUERTO PRINCESA - ZAMBOANGA	P3,649	P7,298	P3,239	P6,478
BUTUAN - BACOLOD	P2,649	P5,298	P2,319	P4,638
BUTUAN - ILOILO	P2,649	P5,298	P2,319	P4,638
BUTUAN - DAVAO	P2,899	P5,798	P2,569	P5,138
BUTUAN - ZAMBOANGA	P2,899	P5,798	P2,569	P5,138

** Above through fares shall apply provided a stopover in Cebu in not more than 48 hours. For stopovers beyond 48 hours, sum of fares per leg shall apply*

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0920	1020	P2,779	P2,449	
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250			P2,049
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940			
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P1,879	P1,539	P1,349

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1115	1240	P3,645	P3,239	P2,569
CEBU	5J - 224	M/W/Sat	DC9	1340	1420	P1,839	P1,499	P1,299

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,779	P2,449	
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235			P2,049
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1700	1800			
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1830	1930			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0700	0735	P2,099	P1,759	P1,549
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0700	0905	P3,645	P3,195	

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P2,099
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1050	1220	P3,667	P3,239	P2,519
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/F/Sat	DC9	0730	0825	P2,649	P2,319	P1,999
DAVAO	5J - 394	Tu/Th/Sun	DC9	0730	0830	P2,649	P2,319	P1,999

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 626	Daily	DC9	0720	0830	P2,899	P2,569	P1,769*
	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1430	1540			

** Promotional Value fare*

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,519
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300			

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1120	1210	P2,899	P2,569	P2,049
	5J - 344	Daily	DC9	1500	1550			

ORIGIN: PUERTO PRINCESA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 638	Daily	DC9	0920	1030	P2,899	P2,499	P2,049
	5J - 228/+	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	1305	-			
CEBU	5J - 228	Tu/Th/F/Sun	DC9	1305	1415	P2,899	P2,499	P2,049

+ via Cebu 5J 568/570/572

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	-	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD*	ETA*
MANILA	-	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
			5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	-	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
			5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	-	SEOUL	5J - 194	Mon	B757	1340	1840
			5J - 1944	Fri	B757	1340	1840
CEBU	-	SEOUL	5J - 128	Th/Sun	B757	1535	2115
SEOUL	-	MANILA	5J - 195	Mon	B757	2005	2250
			5J - 1955	Fri	B757	2005	2250
SEOUL	-	CEBU	5J - 129	Th/Sun	B757	2225	0155

*Local Time

NOTES:
- All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERRABLE.
- Insurance surcharge of P250 per sector is applicable to all fare types.
- Airport fees and terminal fees are not included in ticket fares.
- Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only.
- All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax.
- All fares and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
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Drilon: She's definitely not out of race

From page A1

But after the forum, Drilon told the INQUIRER that Ms Macapagal's priorities and official engagements could only lead to one logical conclusion: She is, definitely, not out of the race.

"Her provincial sorties are her way of getting the support of the people," he said. To be an effective leader, Drilon emphasized, "one has to get the people's support."

And one way of doing it "is to get it directly from the people" through "provincial sorties."

Drilon was the highest-ranking administration official to speculate on Ms Macapagal's election plans.

He pointed out that it would not be a great disservice to the nation if the President changed her mind.

He said the President's declaration on Dec. 30, 2002 not to stand in the May 2004 elections was not a "mistake." At the time, "she sincerely believed that she should not run. But as I said, that was six months ago, and she's now reexamining her options."

2 administration candidates

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr., a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition party that Cojuangco founded, said his partymates were waiting for the toss-up to be resolved.

"We are now waiting for orders or the final resolution between the two prospective candidates of the coalition," Macarambon told reporters. The NPC is the second largest party in Congress.

Macarambon noted that there was a clamor from the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats for Ms Macapagal to run, and on the other, calls from even within Lakas to draft Cojuangco.

"There is a party (Lakas) endorsement for Ambassador Danding Cojuangco and there is also a move to urge the President to run as standard-bearer," Macarambon said.

But one thing is certain as far as Macarambon is concerned.

"We believe that anyone of the two would be successful in the elections of 2004," Macarambon said.

Drilon said he believed it was logical for Ms Macapagal to rethink her political plans after unprecedented prodding by world leaders.

The endorsement by Lakas and Ms Macapagal's successful state visits to the United States, Korea and Japan were also "recent political developments" that had certainly impacted on the President.

"I don't think there is anything illegal about that. Whether or not that will sit well with the people is something that she also has to consider," said Drilon.

He explained that Ms Macapagal had not made any formal declaration to run so that partisan politics would not distract her from concentrating on economic reforms.

He said that all things being equal, the critical factors being considered by Ms Macapagal were the economy and peace and order.

"If the economy improves in the next 10 months, the opposition would have difficulty campaigning against her."

A consistent performance in the economy, stability in the political and social scene in the country, and a "real ground swell, not an invented ground swell of support," would be the decisive factors, Drilon said.

"A lot of things can still happen in 10 months," Drilon said.

"I would expect that a definite decision would be made in the fourth quarter of the year," he added.

In Mindanao

Ms Macapagal is visiting various cities in Mindanao in what she described as "one week of intense and focused attention on the priorities for peace and development in Mindanao."

"The remaining year of my administration will also be an opportunity to deliver these development gains that are crucial to building public confidence in and popular demand for continued peace," she added.

She said peace was necessary to sustain gains in the welfare and living standards of the poor in Mindanao.

The President said her administration was committed to achieving an enduring just peace in Mindanao within the bounds of the Constitution.

She said her administration recognized that armed conflict in Mindanao had been a "monster bred by injustice, neglect, underdevelopment, poverty, ignorance, disadvantage and economic exclusion."

"While we are committed to ending the current armed conflict by dissuading its most ardent adherents, we're also dedicated to reducing and eliminating the main conditions that might continue to breed conflicts in the future," she said.

The President said she came to Mindanao after her successful state visits to the United States, South Korea and Japan.

"While the gains from these visits will benefit the whole country, I've tried my best to focus the benefits in favor of Mindanao," she said.

But peasant groups under the umbrella of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas were unimpressed. Yesterday, on the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the KMP said Ms Macapagal, whether she runs next year or not, never enjoyed the support of the country's farmers. *With reports from Juliet Javellana; AFP; Norman Bordadora*

Estrada wants GMA, Davide on stand

From page A1

Estrada theoretically faces the death penalty if convicted of plunder.

In a statement, Bunye said Estrada was "moving heaven and earth not to testify." He also pointed out that the Supreme Court had already ruled that Estrada was no longer the president.

"Just to remind ourselves where the case stands, the prosecution has already rested. It is now the turn of the defense to present its evidence," Bunye said.

Panganiban's book

Paguia said the court should take up the "golden opportunity" to summon Ms Macapagal and the six other officials to "prove the truth" of Panganiban's statements in his book "Reforming the Judiciary."

Estrada's lawyer cited the book in his May 19 motion to dismiss the plunder charges as proof that there was "error in jurisdiction" on the part of the Sandiganbayan in handling the ex-President's case.

He said the Supreme Court erred in its earlier ruling upholding the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency because the justices were at the Edsa Shrine to administer the oath to the incumbent, thereby committing a "prejudgment" on the issue.

Paguia also said the seven potential witnesses should bring with them "whatever material supporting documents" on their participation in Ms Macapagal's proclamation as President.

But Villa-Ignacio said the motion was a mere monkey wrench thrown into the legal proceedings.

"*Panggulo na lang ito*," he said. "We're not going to dignify this because it will just be like saying it has basis. It's a perfect script for a [TV] gag show like 'Bubble Gang' or 'Wow Mali.'"

He also said Estrada's lawyers should "devote more time to the plunder case."

"I think they have no defense at all. That's why they are resorting to this," he added.

'Not impossible'

According to Director Conrado Tolentino of the Supreme Court's public information office, justices may be summoned by lower courts but only in cases involving acts they committed "outside their official responsibility."

But Tolentino declined to comment on Paguia's motion, saying: "Let the Sandiganbayan decide on that issue."

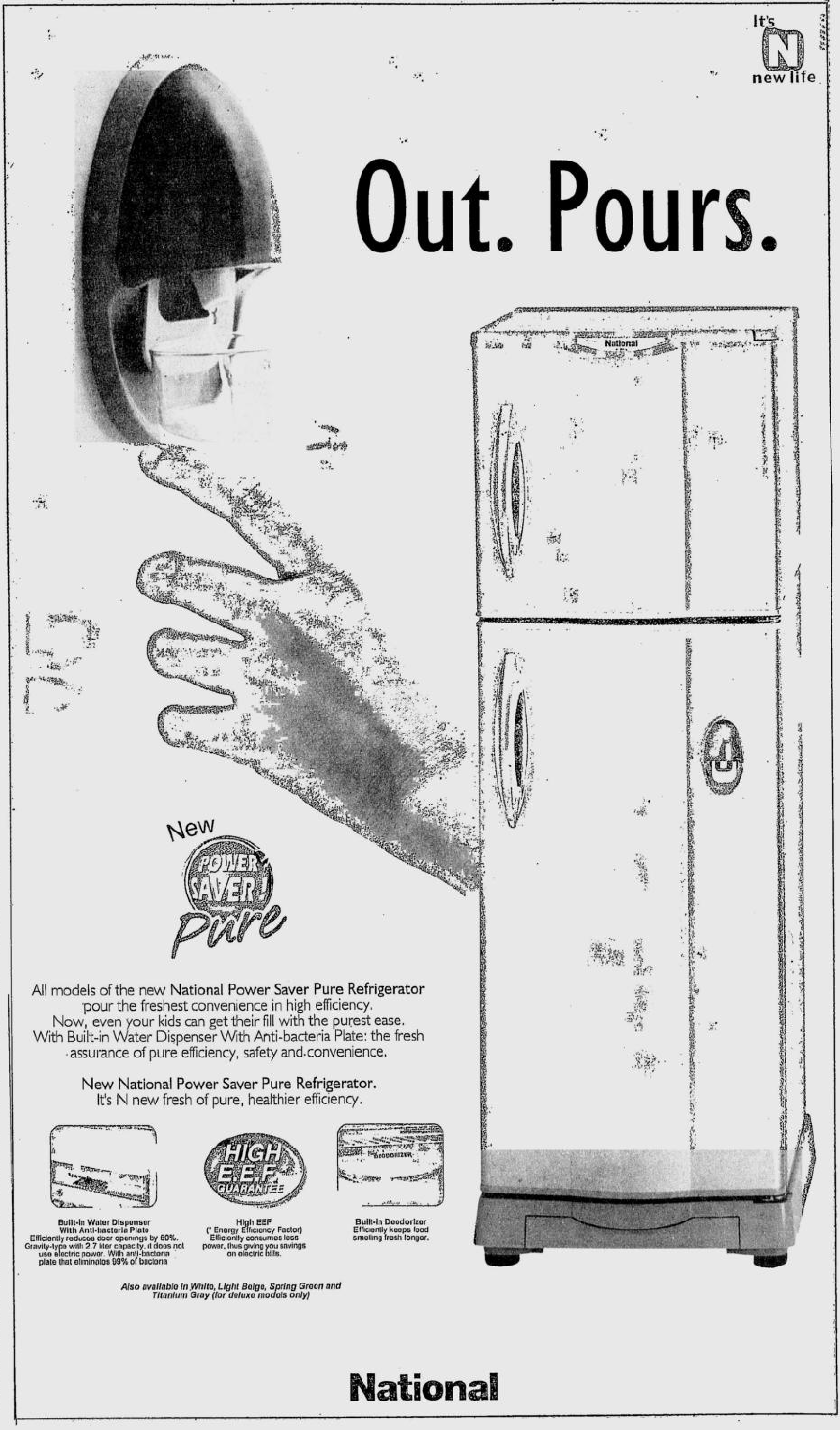
Asked whether Supreme Court justices could appear as witnesses, he said: "It depends. It's not impossible."

Tolentino also said protocol would not serve as a hindrance to the justices' appearance in a lower court.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines called for sobriety in the matter of the impeachment case filed by Rene Saguisag, another Estrada lawyer, against Davide and seven other justices.

IBP national president Teofilo S. Pilando acknowledged that impeachment was an "act of political justice" and an "extremely significant process to effect change well recognized by the Constitution."

However, Pilando said, the impeachment process should not be used for "political agenda that would not only inflict damage on the judicial institution but [also] delay the consideration of urgent proposed legislation pending" in Congress. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and AFP*



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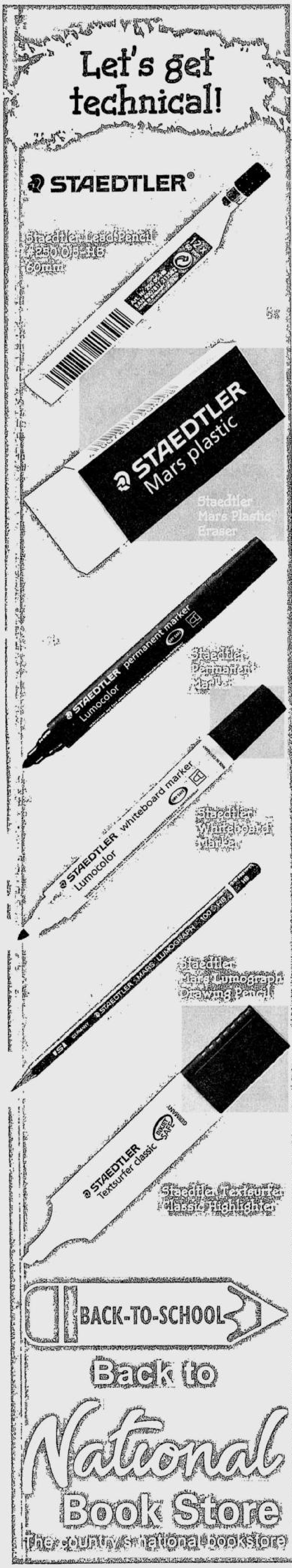
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When God's priests are under fire, devil happy, says bishop's friend

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S when God's soldiers are under fire that forces of evil are most powerful, according to a longtime information officer of Bishop Bacani Jr.

The sex scandal hounding Bacani has placed the entire Catholic Church on the defensive and rendered its priests vulnerable, Gloria Garchitorena Goloy, the bishop's friend, said.

"Times like this make the devil very happy," she told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Refusing to side neither with Bacani nor his accuser, the 75-year-old Goloy asked churchgoers to refrain from making hasty judgments and should instead leave the Catholic hierarchy to settle the matter.

Allegations of sexual harassment—most of which might be "unfounded"—only shake the Catholic faith and may even destroy the moral ascendancy of the clergy, said Goloy, a longtime journalist before she joined Bacani at the Paco parish in Manila in 1984. She lived in Paco for 45 years.

"Instead of listening to all these stories, people should just be more active in their parishes," she said.

If a member of the clergy is proven guilty, parishioners should be open to forgiveness, according to Goloy.

"Priests go through an exhaustive daily routine that normally reaches the point of idleness," she said. "It's the point when temptation is strong because they're also human beings who get aroused. It's when they need our prayers and support the most."

Gabriela, media

The newest scandal to rock the country's predominant religion, she said, could largely be blamed on the militant women's group Gabriela and to some extent, the media.

Gabriela has taken the cudgels for the supposed complainant, the 34-year-old former secretary of Bacani, after her mother purportedly sought the group's help last April.

Goloy noted that neither the secretary nor her mother had gone public to accuse the bishop.

Sketchy accounts of the alleged sexual molestation were provided only by Gabriela, she said. "It is obvious that the issue is so tempting but why pick on priests?" she asked. "Why doesn't Gabriela defend women being exploited on TV, those who are made to wiggle their waists in noontime shows?"

The media, she said, could also help keep the "devil" at bay by going easy on their coverage of sex scandals linked to the Church.

In the Bacani controversy, she suggested that media provide substantial coverage of the bishop's many but largely unreported contributions to the Church and the community.

In Paco where Bacani was parish priest until 1996, Goloy said he walked an extra mile to unite parishioners. His motto: "*Mahalaga and bawat isa. Kailangan ang bawat isa. Kailangan magkaisa.*"

Always available

To serve as moral example, Bacani always made himself available to anyone needing just about any help, Goloy said.

"Everybody could call him anytime and he always came whenever he was needed," she said.

"He was there during funerals, marital rites, or when somebody's sick. He's there to listen to problems, to bridge gaps among parishioners."

Before he left Paco, Bacani built a mortuary for the poor and an adoration chapel, according to Goloy.

All these, she said, explains why the allegation was anything but believable for most Paco residents.

Velarde: Bacani is a victim of harassment

From page A1

to himself but confides it to me as well," Velarde said.

"His personal and official actions and behavior that we have observed all these years belie the accusations of misdemeanor against him," Velarde said.

El Shaddai ministry workers and members have been asked to pray for Bacani and the Catholic hierarchy.

Healing rally

El Shaddai, which boasts of around eight million members nationwide, will hold a Mass and healing rally on Saturday at the AMVEL Business Park in Parañaque.

"Our trust and confidence in Bishop Bacani has not been diminished by this incredible harassment," Velarde said.

Bacani also enjoys the support of a group of Catholic lay people who take the charges leveled against him by his former secretary with nothing more than a grain of salt.

Ed Malay, a member of the Teaching and Formation Ministry of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos covenant community, said the laity saw the charges as a mere attempt to destroy the integrity and credibility of Bacani.

"It would be premature at this point to conclude that Bishop Bacani is guilty as some sectors have done because the tribunal which has acquired jurisdiction over the complaint has yet to be convened," Malay said in a statement.

Bukas Loob sa Diyos is one of the charismatic communities throughout the country with chapters overseas.

"This is another sad episode in the history of the Church. The complaining former secretary should have gone directly to the Papal Nuncio or the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines not to an NGO," Malay said. The NGO he was referring to was the militant women's group Gabriela, which has taken the cudgels for Bacani's former secretary.

Media unfair

At the presbyterial meeting, the priests also held discussions on how to deal with the media and the Church staff, according to Fr. Anton Pascual, spiritual director of all Catholic charismatic groups in the Archdiocese of Manila.

He said that the clergy felt that the media had not been fair to Bacani.

"The impression is that media is not fair, objective and prudent," Pascual told the INQUIRER on the phone. He said that the priests also prayed for media practitioners.

What is important is that the Catholic Church's leadership confronts the issue and does not hide from it, according to Pascual.

He said that he and the other priests had a lot of sharing "for the good of the Church during this crisis."

"Because of the situation, there is a lot of confusions, frustrations ... We admit that the Church is composed of sinners and saints, not just among the bishops but among lay people as well," Pascual said.

Pastoral care

The Archdiocese of Jaro has not issued a statement on the accusation against Bacani but its priests spent three days, on May 5 to 7, discussing the final draft of the CBCP "Pastoral care for victims and offenders of clergy sexual misconduct."

Dr. Daisy Daquilanea, a psychiatrist, was among the resource persons invited to discuss issues on "sexual misconduct" and its pastoral, psychological, legal and canonical aspects.

The comments on the final draft would enrich the document that would be discussed by the CBCP in July, said Oso.

BACANI: The gift of undiminished trust from El Shaddai.

In Negros Oriental, Bais City Mayor Hector Villanueva on Monday suggested that to prevent the sexual harassment case from happening again, priests should be allowed to get married.

"Priests are only human," Villanueva said.

But the Diocese of Dumaguete thumbed down Villanueva's proposal.

Fr. Julius Heruela, head of the Commission on Liturgy of the Diocese, said the diocese was standing by the vow of celibacy. *With reports from Norman Bordadora in Manila; and Ma. Diosa Labiste and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Woman accuser feeling sorry for bishop

From page A1

make desicions on her own," Reyes said.

He also clarified that it was not he who referred the case to the militant women's group Gabriela or to Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, the Vatican's representative in the country.

"Sister Baay is a member of the Women and Gender Commission of the AMRSP (Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines) which has links with NGO groups like Gabriela. They (Gabriela) knew even before I learned about it. But I just kept mum because I felt there was no need for me to say anything. Besides, it would still be the complainant who would decide in the end. As to the extent of my help for the complainant, I just helped her seek professional help," Father Reyes said.

He added that it was Sister Baay who had accompanied the complainant to Franco to report the alleged harassment.

Silence for now

The running priest, who himself is a controversial man of the cloth for espousing largely unpopular causes, added that the complainant had chosen to keep her silence on the issue for now.

"It would be all up to her to decide to come out if and when she feels there is a need to," he said.

Reyes likewise appealed to the public to avoid prejudgment. He pointed out that what was important was that the Church was working on it quietly for proper discernment.

"Give the Church some time to work things out. They're now in the process of discerning things. Let's not judge them," he said.

Tina Santos

Public urged: Stop feasting on sex scandal

From page A1

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said the episode currently rocking the Catholic Church may remind the clergy that what was a "normally" accepted way of "showing affection" in one culture may not be so in another.

"That's probably a lesson for every priest and whichever bishop, that probably...something that may take place naturally and normally in other countries may not be so accepted so normally or naturally in our country," he told the INQUIRER in a chance interview in Makati City.

"So we do have to begin looking at how we show affection to friends or people who approach us."

Quevedo arrived at this view after noting that Bacani, in his letter to the "Faithful of Novaliches" issued on Sunday, asked for forgiveness for the "consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection" that he had showed his secretary.

Citing an example of the cultural nuances which priests should now be sensitive to, the CBCP head said he himself was often embraced by US-based priests, sisters and ordinary lay people whenever he visited them abroad.

"But here in the Philippines it's not normally done except in the missionary areas where the experience are with foreigners," he said.

Quevedo reiterated CBCP's call on Catholics not to let their faith depend on the "goodness or imperfections" of individual priests or bishops but on Jesus Christ himself. *Reports from AFP and Volt Contreras*

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SUERTRES (In exact order) 9 3 7

6/42 Luzon
3 19 32 37 38 40

Vis-Min
6 8 9 10 15 26

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Cops, officials taking drugs to be named

By Christian Esguerra

POLICEMEN using banned substances will be known by tomorrow. And these — even if they include generals — will be subjected to public humiliation.

Anti-drug czar Edgar Aglipay yesterday said he would make public the names of confirmed drug users in uniform.

"I will make no exception," he told the INQUIRER. "I will name even generals if they would be found to have used illegal drugs."

A total of 1,047 urine samples were randomly taken from policemen during the first day of the anti-illegal drugs program at Camp Crame last Monday, said Senior Supt. Nestor Ylagan, deputy director for administration of the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Aglipay explained that the urine samples would be tested and subjected to confirmatory testing.

He said he would initiate summary dismissal proceedings for policemen who would test positive for illegal drug use in both examinations.

An apparent hindrance, however, in the government's ambitious program is the lack of funds for mass drug testing.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina yesterday admitted that although the law required "annual and mandatory" testing for policemen, soldiers and members of other law enforcement agencies, the Dangerous Drugs Board could not finance it.

Funding for the undertaking did not make it to this year's budget because the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act was enacted only last year, he said.

"This year, we can afford only random drug testing for law enforcers," he said in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, to put more teeth to the PNP's anti-drug campaign, the National Capital Region Police Office created the Regional Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (RAID-SOTF).

RAID-SOTF will be headed by Deputy Regional Director for Administration Chief Supt. Rowland Albano.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said RAID-SOTF would be launched today with the drug testing of policemen in Metro Manila.

Up for testing will be randomly selected personnel from the NCRPO, the Traffic Enforcement Group and the Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western Police Districts.

After handing over their urine samples to Crime Laboratory personnel, the lawmen will attend a symposium on illegal drugs at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

"We have to start within our ranks if we want to succeed in the fight against illegal drugs," Velasco said.

He pointed out that 64 percent of street crimes had been committed by persons under the influence of banned substances.

METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Male
Urinal

URINALS ALONG EDSA
Fed up with the sight and smell of men peeing on walls and nooks along Edsa, the Metro Manila Development Authority has put up several urinals along the highway, usually on crowded areas and places. Some pedestrians, though, have expressed disgust at the open-type urinals and have asked the MMDA to instead install covered ones.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

METROBRIEFS

Pay hike for lawyers

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is now batting for the inclusion of its lawyers in the impending salary increase of justices and judges in the country, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. The Senate last May passed Bill No. 2018 which sought to increase the pay of judges and justices by 100 percent. On Monday, Wycoco met with officials of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General to appeal the inclusion of their lawyers in the new salary scheme. The NBI is under the DOJ. Wycoco said their lawyers, like the DOJ counsels, are part of the country's judicial system. *Luige del Puerto*

UPAA official quits

NAPOLEON Vergara, head of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association's Commission on Election, has resigned his position due to health reasons, according to a statement. Comelec member Victor Avecilla would take over the position. Vergara, who left the post on June 5, would stay on as Comelec member. Vergara, a UP Los Baños professor, denied that he resigned over the controversial election rocking the UPAA. He said he had offered to resign on April 16 but decided to stay on as Comelec chair. The controversy stemmed from alleged anomalies in the submission of voters' names to the UPAA Secretariat. The case is now in court. *Amy Remo*

RP shines in UN gab

THE PHILIPPINES has been called a trailblazer in global efforts to curb human trafficking, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday. Wycoco, who was recently invited to a United Nations forum in Vienna, Austria to talk about human trafficking in Southeast Asia, said that the Philippines was one of the first countries that heeded the UN and passed an anti-human trafficking law on May 26. He commended members of non-government organizations for their help in passing the law, which widens the scope and definition of human trafficking and prostitution. "We have very vocal NGOs on the subject," he said. *Luige del Puerto*

Anti-SARS in Mandaluyong

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday ordered thorough medical screening of public school students in the city to stamp out the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) virus in the city's schools. About 41,000 thermometers have been distributed by the city health office to the city's public schools. Abalos said the thermometers would be used to monitor the temperature of students. "We will also give (the students) vitamins to strengthen their immune systems," Abalos said. *Nelson Flores*

Bones, fetus found in QC

THE SKELETAL remains of a person was found inside the Amoranto Stadium on Roces Avenue, Quezon City yesterday, police said. Lito Matias, the stadium's maintenance man, found the skeleton at around 10 a.m. He told police that the bones were in an empty drum and wrapped in a plastic bag. The remains were immediately sent to the PNP Crime Laboratory for analysis. Also, a fetus of a male child was found in a creek near Barangay Loyola Heights, Quezon City yesterday morning. Alicia Fermin found the fetus at around 7:30 a.m. *Alcuin Papa*

Lovers, robbers nabbed

LOVERS Reynaldo Arlante and Josephine Tabulanza both tried to outwit each other over money that was allegedly stolen from businesswoman Veronica Cruz in her home in Quezon City.

Both have been arrested for theft and are now in jail.

Tabulanza, housemaid of Cruz, asked police to arrest Arlante, a security guard, last Monday when he disappeared with P30,000 she had given him to deposit in their bank account. She called up Arlante and arranged to meet with him so she could give him more money to deposit in the bank.

Police immediately arrested Arlante when he showed up to meet Tabulanza.

But the maid herself was held when she showed up at the police station to file a complaint against her lover. Corpuz had earlier filed a complaint against her for stealing P20,000 and $1,300 from her residence which had been left in her care since June 4, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Confrontation looms over ticketing system

By Leila Salaverria and Margaux Ortiz

EVEN before he could tackle the issue of single ticketing system with local mayors, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday faced opposition from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza Jr.

Fernando planned to take up the issue at the next Metro Manila Council meeting, which is headed by the MMDA chair and composed of the 17 mayors of towns and cities in the metropolis.

The council is in charge of drawing up regulations for Metro Manila.

The MMDA chair said he and the mayors could probably reach a decision simply by talking about the matter. He said an alternative solution or a compromise might not be necessary.

"They're not supposed to (implement their own ticketing system)," Fernando said when asked what he thought of the mayors' decision to draw up their own traffic rules and issue their own tickets.

He also said that it was in the MMDA's mandate to implement a single ticketing system in Metro Manila.

Metro Manila mayors have been insisting that they be allowed to issue their own tickets and formulate their own traffic rules.

Atienza reiterated that the local government units (LGU) were capable of taking over traffic management in their respective areas.

"We are ready, contrary to Fernando's claim that most LGUs are not yet prepared to take on this task," he said.

In the last MMC meeting, Fernando said that should the LGUs issue their own traffic violation tickets, it would create confusion among traffic enforcers and motorists.

US fugitive in pyramid case falls

By Christian Esguerra

RUBI

LAWMEN have arrested a Filipino migrant to the United States for allegedly engaging in multi-million-dollar investment and pyramiding schemes in several American states.

Operatives of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC) collared Edmundo Pardo Rubi in Malate, Manila, on the strength of a warrant issued by the California District Court.

Rubi, a naturalized US citizen, is facing criminal charges that include mail, wire and passport fraud. He has also been charged with conspiracy to launder money and tax evasion, according to the PCTC.

Rubi and his associates are accused of luring hundreds of people, mostly Filipino-Americans, into investing in their company called Knights Express.

US newspapers have reported that Rubi "converted the funds for his own use and transferred millions of dollars to overseas accounts in the names of relatives, business associates and other entities which he controls."

In one of his cases, a California court reportedly barred him from moving assets from his company.

But Rubi supposedly ignored the temporary restraining order and transferred around $1 million from his company's bank account in London to his personal account in the Philippines.

Fund scam victims form alliance

By Leila Salaverria

PYRAMID scam victims have formed an alliance to strengthen their case against pyramid scam suspect Rosario Baladjay.

The group called Rising Alliance Against Business Scams-Multitel Legal Claimants (RABS-MLC) will disseminate information about the scam to prevent people from being duped by similar schemes. It will also serve as a support group for the victims whose lives have been upset by their involvement in the scam, said Gladys Baligad, the group's spokesperson. But the group will not be raising money for its activities.

"Maybe, donations from members are okay, but we'd rather not deal with raising money because that's how our troubles started," Baligad said.

Baladjay was the chief executive of Multinational Telecommunications Investors Corp. Along with her husband Saturnino, Baladjay has been charged with syndicated estafa, violation of the bouncing check law, and the securities code for allegedly duping investors of millions of pesos.

Coast Guard returns victim's money

By Luige del Puerto

NOTHING will replace his wife Remedios, who died in the sea mishap that claimed 40 people on May 25.

Not even the P43,000 cash the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday returned to PO2 Pablo Tecson, husband of Remedios who owned the money.

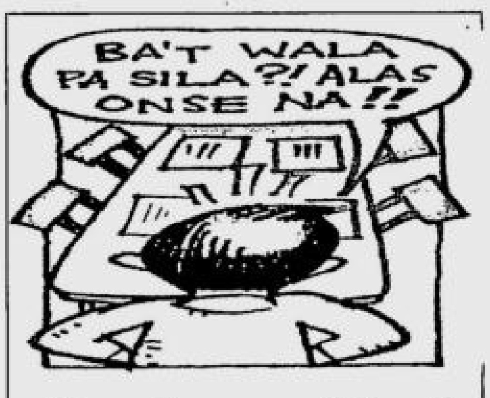
Coast Guard rescuers fished out of Manila Bay the money, which was wrapped in plastic along with receipts confirming the owner's identity, according to Lt. Armand Balilo, Coast Guard information officer.

Tecson, who is assigned with the Busuanga, Palawan Police, claimed the cash yesterday morning at the Coast Guard headquarters after showing his marriage contract and other identification papers.

"Mr. Tecson was still distraught when he came here," Balilo said. "But I'm happy that at least he got his money back."

Balilo said they also recovered bags, packages and money in smaller amounts.

He said the relatives of other victims could claim these upon presentation of identification papers proving their relationship with the victims.


BA'T WALA PA SILA?! ALAS ONSE NA!!

Dads scolded for being late

DESCRIBING Manila councilors as his "laid-back" children, Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna yesterday reprimanded them for always coming late to the council sessions.

According to witnesses who attended yesterday's session, Lacuna got upset when the session began at 10:50 a.m.—two hours behind schedule.

Lacuna, the council's presiding officer, said that he was already at the Manila City Hall at 8:30 a.m., and had waited the whole time for the session to begin.

Manila City Council sessions are supposed to be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday.

Lacuna, began his "sermon" immediately after the flag ceremony, said Kenneth Montegrande, a reporter of Expose.

"I've been telling them to act like responsible public officials by coming on time, but they don't listen," Lacuna later told the Inquirer.

Lacuna said that he has never been absent from any of the council sessions.

But a councilor, who asked not to be named, claimed that Lacuna "does not finish presiding (council sessions) most of the time."

"(Lacuna) always disappears from the hall long before the session is finished and leaves the floor to Councilor Kim Atienza," the councilor said.

Margaux Ortiz

Dirty air in Asian cities worry experts

MORE cooperation between governments and the private sector is needed to combat Asia's air pollution, which leads to about half a million deaths annually, Asian Development Bank (ADB) experts said yesterday.

"Not enough has been done to ensure that people will be able to breathe clean air again," said Supat Wongwatana who heads an ADB-supported regional anti-air pollution initiative.

Supat stressed the need for private sector knowledge and commitment in the fight against dirty air.

Experts urged the private sector to link up with an ADB-supported Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities, which collects information on air quality management. It also promotes training and projects aimed at reducing air pollution.

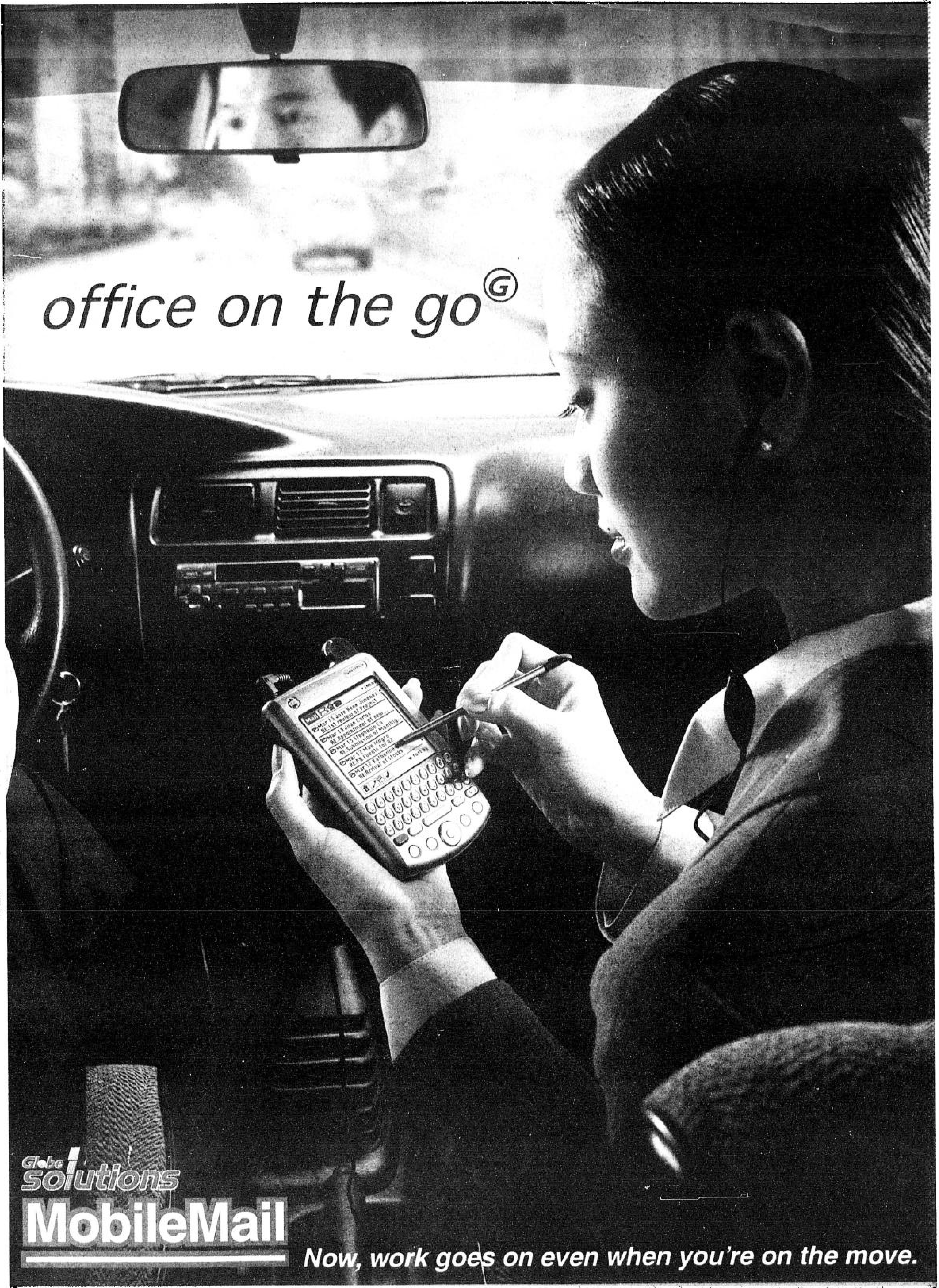
The Manila-based bank has come up with a set of guidelines to help Asian officials reduce vehicle emissions, which has been tagged as the number one culprit in dirtying the air.

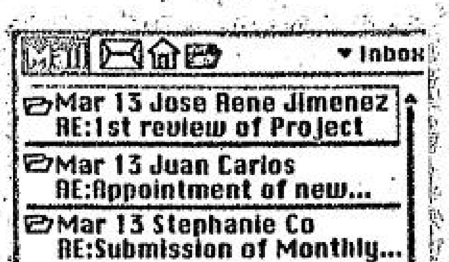
Also, governments are urged to adopt an integrated approach in maintaining engines and applying stricter emission standards. Governments should also ensure the availability of cleaner fuels and mandate regular inspections.

"Air quality in most urban areas in this region is extremely poor," said Charles Melhuish, ADB's lead transport specialist.

"The reason why we are concerned with air quality is because of its adverse impact on health. Approximately 500,000 people die prematurely due to poor outdoor air quality in the Asian region," he said.

Melhuish noted that health costs associated with air pollution have topped $400 million in Manila and Bangkok in the past two years. *AFP*





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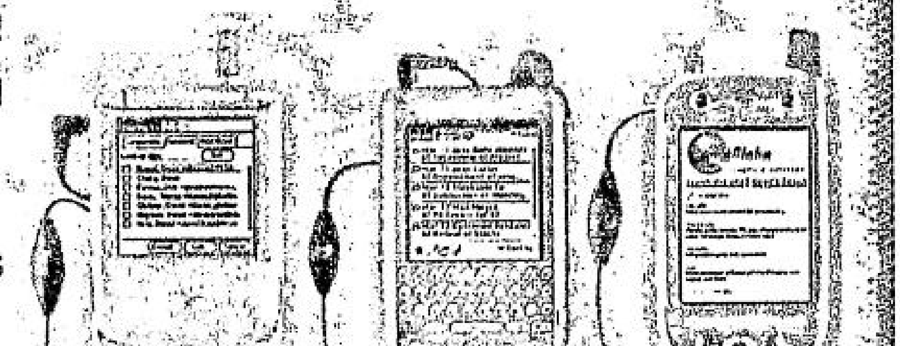
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Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Banned PBA cagers can appeal to GAB

WHAT'S INSIDE

Kournikova pulls out /A28

Devils snare Stanley Cup /A28

By June Navarro

IF EVERYTHING else fails, PBA players who have been banned after testing positive for prohibited drugs could seek reinstatement from the Games and Amusements Board.

This was announced yesterday by GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva as he offered refuge to the beleaguered pro cagers.

"That's one thing the players don't know. The GAB, as the supreme regulatory body in professional sports, can enforce its mandate on all cases under its wings," said Villanueva.

He said Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot, Davonn Harp of Red Bull and the seven other players who flunked the drug test could lodge their appeal before the GAB in case the Philippine Basketball Association refuses to reinstate them.

Villanueva, however, stressed his office, the moment it receives an appeal, would first conduct a thorough investigation on each case of these cagers who have been banned indefinitely by the pro league.

He explained that the suspended players will not have an easy time getting back their licenses.

"We will hear the side of the players, the PBA, the DOH, the PNP Crime Laboratory and other parties concerned aside from scrutinizing the matter independently," Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

Only after he's been ascertained of their innocence would he restore the suspended licenses of these cagers and allow them to play again, Villanueva said.

Villanueva said suspected procedural flaws during the PBA drug tests could eventually vindicate the players. He also cited the "human error" factor floated by politicians and medical experts in two separate Congressional hearings last week.

"But we will not jump into conclusions. Only if we find clear pieces of evidence in their favor will we decide to restore the licenses of these players, Villanueva added.

Villanueva did confirm that, as a private institution, the PBA has the right to continue enforcing the indefinite suspension of the players even after the GAB has restored their licenses.

"The GAB and the PBA are however closely coordinating on this controversy. As much as possible, we want to help each other in solving the problem at hand. Now, if there's strong evidence to absolve the player, the PBA should do its part by allowing the player to play again," said Villanueva.

Although the Philippine Basketball Association is a private entity, the GAB has regulatory powers over the pro league by virtue of PD 871, the law that puts all professional sports institutions under the supervision of the government.

Villanueva cited the cases of Asi Taulava of Talk N' Text and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña, whose teams appealed to him before the GAB restored the licenses of both players and allowed them to play.

Meanwhile, embattled officials of the police crime laboratory yesterday said they were standing by their findings that 14 out of 21 PBA players tested positive for the use of banned substances.

BANNED/ A28

Senate seeking outright deportation of 'Fil-shams'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE will recommend next week the immediate deportation of fake Fil-Am basketball players who had submitted falsified documents in trying to prove Filipino descent.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports, made this disclosure as he formally terminated yesterday the investigation on the so-called Fil-sham players in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Barbers confirmed that about three to four of the six players summoned by his committee would be sanctioned.

He however did not name names.

"I don't want to preempt the formal disclosure of the recommendations of the committee members," Barbers said in an interview yesterday.

Barbers also refused to confirm whether immigration and justice officials would be penalized for allegedly issuing forged documents to prove the players' Filipino ancestry.

Even the supposed Fil-Am players of the PBA who are abroad will not be spared.

"It doesn't make a difference if they are around or out of the country as long as we could come up with the recommendation," he said.

Barbers disclosed that members of his legal staff are in the process of "collating the different recommendations from the nine-member committee ... so that we could come up with a unified report" on the probe.

He, however, assured the public that the report would be exhaustive.

"We will have a discussion on the specific cases of the players involved," said Barbers.

Although the identities of the players were not disclosed, Barbers confirmed that the committee had thoroughly evaluated the documents submitted by Eric Menk, Paul Asi Taulava, William Jonathan Ordonio, Andy Seigle, Dorian Peña and Rudy Hartfield.

All six claimed during committee hearings that they were properly documented by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

A committee member, Sen. Robert Jaworski Sr., earlier hinted that he would move to have the erring government officials indicted for "some administrative lapses."

Jaworski noted that the committee had found out that some BI and DOJ officials issued the spurious documents to the players.

Yet the probe later confirmed that some of the entries in the players' birth certificates had been altered, such as the addresses of their grandparents and distant relatives.

Aces eye semis

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports*)
5:00 p.m.—FedEx vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—SMB vs Sta. Lucia

ALASKA coach Tim Cone is not entertaining thoughts of figuring in a knockout match to survive the quarterfinals of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup. Cone wants the Aces to beat the FedEx Express at the Philsports Arena today to avoid complications.

A victory over the Express and the Beermen winning over the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the other game would automatically hand the Aces a semifinal seat. *June Navarro*

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Rizal fit to host Asian trackfest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE VINTAGE Rizal Memorial track and field stadium is still fit to host the Asian championships in September.

International Amateur Athletics Federation vice president Dr. Helmut Diegel made the assessment yesterday after conducting an ocular inspection of the 70-year-old stadium.

He said the track oval, which was last refurbished in 1993 also for the Asian championships, is still in good condition although it needs to have repair works and re-painting for the meet which is expected to lure 1,000 foreign athletes and officials.

The Philippine Sports Commission earlier estimated the renovation to cost at least P30 mil-

RIZAL/ A28

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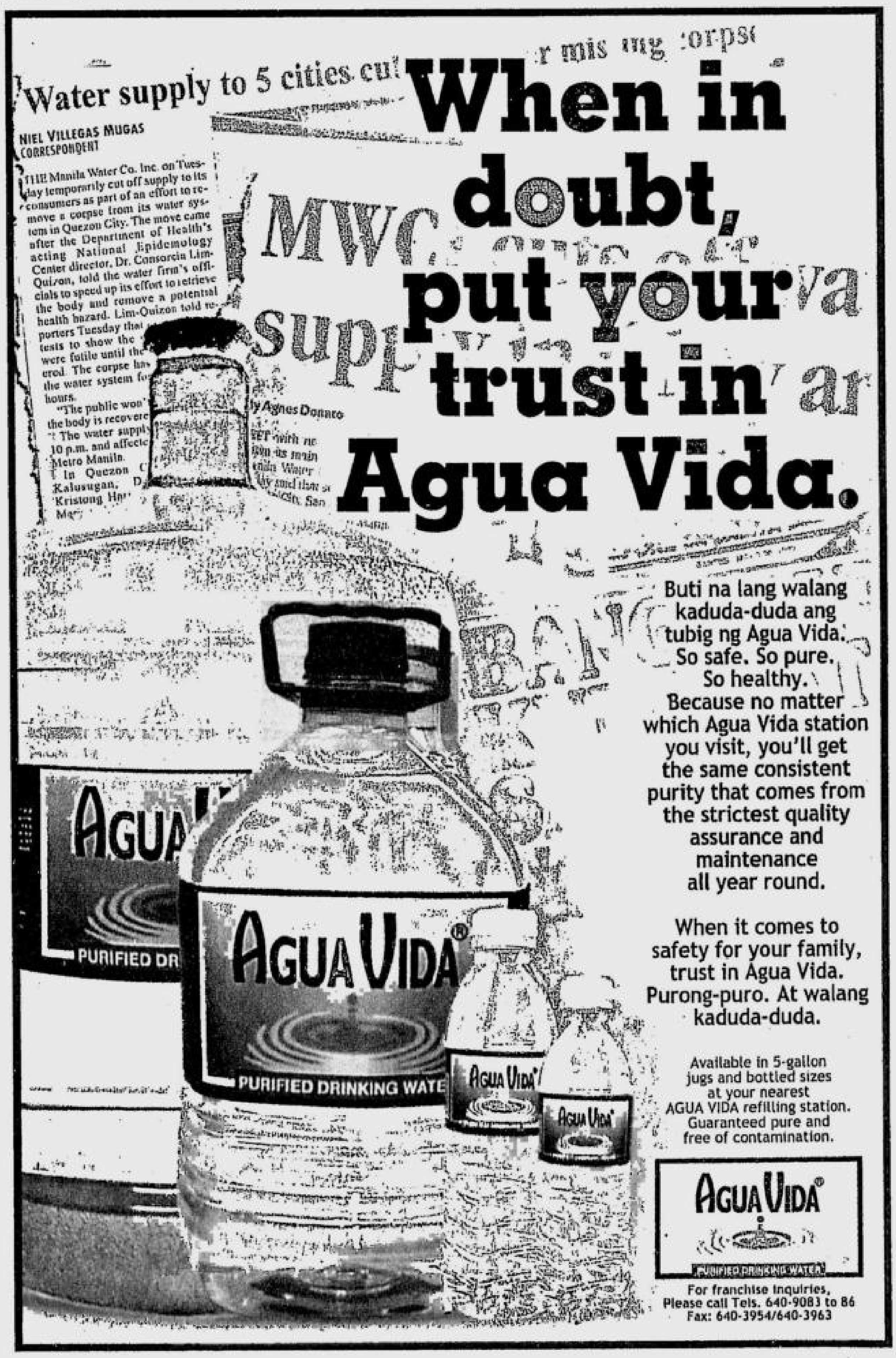

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Hapee rips Viva, levels PBL series

By Dennis U. Eroa

HAPEE Toothpaste bounced back with a masterful 52-43 victory over Viva Mineral Water last night, sending the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five championship series back to square one at the Pasig Sports Center.

Playing like true favorites, the Sparklers tormented the Water Force with a choking defense throughout the low-scoring match to erase the stigma of losing Game 1, 64-57, Saturday night in Lucena City.

As Viva groped for its shots, Allan Salangasang finished with a double-double show, making 13 points and collaring 10 rebounds. It was ex-University of Santo Tomas standout Nino Gelig who stole the show, however.

The high-leaping Gelig, a non-factor in the first game, banged in 11 of his 13 points in the final half, giving the Sparklers the needed push to cushion Viva's patented last-minute comeback.

Game 3 of the series will be held on Saturday at the Pasay Sports Complex with Hapee enjoying momentum. The PBL takes a rest tomorrow.

"I'm glad that the team was able to respond to the challenge. Talent alone will not bring us the championship. Teamwork and hard work will do," said Hapee mentor Junel Baculi.

With veteran Eugene Tan orchestrating the plays, Salangsang sparked a 10-0 blast as the Sparklers hinted of things to come, 21-14, in the second quarter.

David voted MVP

GARY David, whose explosive game failed to lift Montafia Pawnshop to the ongoing Sunkist-PBL Unit Cup finals, yesterday won the hotly contested MVP race, beating three dribblers from finalist Hapee Toothpaste.

Ebuen, Balatbat retain tablenet titles

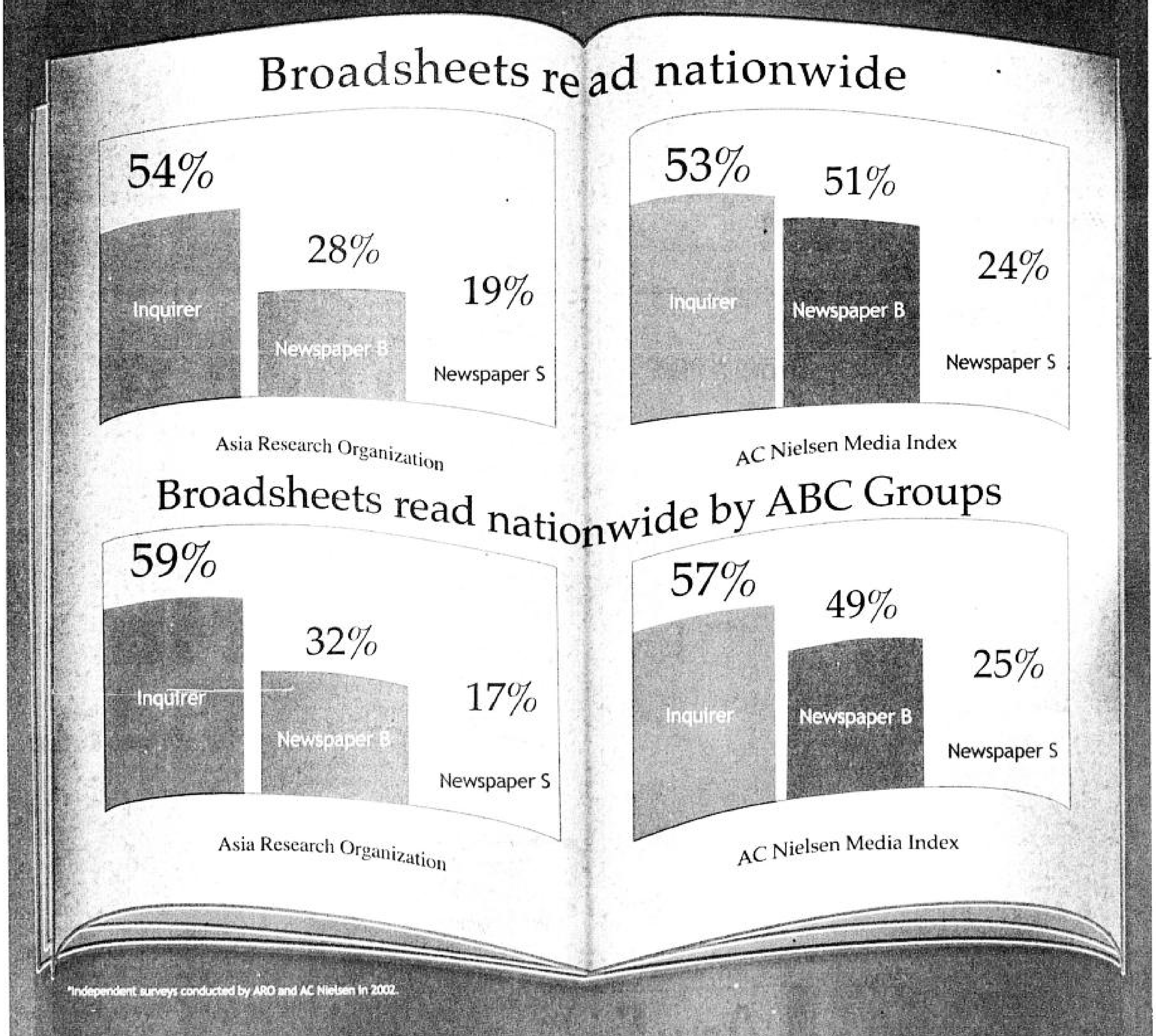
ERNESTO Ebuen III and Sendrina Balatbat subdued their respective foes to retain their national titles yesterday in the PCSO 1st President's Cup table tennis tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Ebuen brushed aside upset-conscious Rogel Flores, 12-10, 11-2, 9-11, 11-6, 11-4, in the men's open, while Balatbat repulsed Marell Lagunday, 9-11, 11-2, 13-11, 11-6, 11-8, in the women's division.

In the special "Liha" event, Mario Santos shocked Richard Gonzales, 4-1.

Awarding medals to the winners were Table Tennis Association of the Philippines president Victor Valbuena, PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. De Leon, PCSO managing head Manuel Garcia, former PSC commisioner Cynthia Carreon, and former Tatap president Rufino Go.

Different surveys.*
Same result.



*Independent surveys conducted by ARO and AC Nielsen in 2002.

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SPORTSWATCH

Sabbatini prevails

POTOMAC, Maryland—Rory Sabbatini found the hole from 60 feet at the par-5 13th. The eagle swung the momentum back to the South African, and he held off Duffy Waldorf on Monday to win the FBR Capital Open. Sabbatini shot a 68 to finish with a 14-under-par 270 on the par-71 TPC at Avenel course. He was the only player to shoot in the 60s all four rounds. Waldorf, assessed a two-shot penalty after his round was over, shot a 69 to finish at 274. Waldorf was penalized for using his club to pat down a rough area in front of his ball before taking his second shot at the 12th hole. *AP*

Wie makes US Open

HEATHROW, Florida—Credit the impatience of youth for one of golf's newest phenoms landing a berth in the US Women's Open. Thirteen-year-old Michelle Wie birdied the first hole of a playoff at a sectional qualifying event on Monday, giving her one of the last bids to the upcoming major tournament. She struggled early at the Country Club of Heathrow, north of Orlando, with three straight bogeys in her first six holes, but rallied with an even-par final round to reach the playoff. *AP*

Lewis-Klitschko set

LOS ANGELES—Vitali Klitschko is getting his chance to fight Lennox Lewis earlier than expected. Lewis will defend his heavyweight title against Klitschko on June 21 at Staples Center. Lewis' scheduled opponent, Kirk Johnson, dropped out of the fight after tearing a chest muscle in training. That accelerated the Lewis-Klitschko bout that was planned for later this year. Solar Sports will telecast the fight live on June 21 starting at 10 a.m. on RPN-9, replay will be on June 22, 7 p.m., on IBC-13. Klitschko is the No. 1 contender for Lewis' WBC heavyweight title and was scheduled to fight on the undercard. His fight against Cedric Boswell was canceled. *AP*

Torre, Antonio simul

EARLY enrollees get the chance to play against GMs Eugene Torre and Rogelio Antonio Jr. when the fourth series of the Milo Checkmate clinic is held on June 14 at the 4th level of J & F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. beside St. Joseph Church in Quezon City. Torre and Antonio will also attend the thanksgiving Mass and sign autographs. The clinic is open to chessers 5 years old and above. Enrollment starts at 8:30 a.m. at the venue. For details, call Metropolitan Chess Club or Checkmate Phils. at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Ong bags Youth plum

FREDERICK Ong outplayed Wu Siu Hong of Hong Kong to capture the Youth Masters title of the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Bowling Championships Monday night at the Green Valley Center in Pasig. Ong, carrying the colors of PBAP-Bowlmart, finished with a 2158 total for a 10-game average of 216 to beat Hong, the current World Youth Masters champion, for the title. The kegfest is sponsored by Boysen, Prima, Amstar, Astor, BQS Management, Tone Guide, Silver Wings.

Go reaches final

ZAMBOANGA—Local bet Orie Go ousted Boy Patarasa, 6-1, 6-2, and Jay Dizon, 6-0, 6-3, to barge into the final against Jessie Ong, a 6-2, 6-2 winner past Marlon Salip, in the boys' 14-under division in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop Sunday here at the Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association hardcourts. In the boys' 16-under bracket, Go edged Biboy Eddun, 6-1, 7-6, and goes for a double title against favored Ruel Damian, who nipped Amping Benson, 6-4, 6-4, in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids with a Group-3 Philta sanction.

Slasher Cup slated

THE 2003 World Slasher Cup International 8-Cock Derby is slated on June 16, 18 and 20 at the Araneta Coliseum. The event, backed by Thunderbird Power Feeds and Univet Agricultural in cooperation with Uniprom, Inc., is regarded as the biggest cockfighting event in the world. Foreign and local participants will be presented during a press conference on June 14. Action starts on Monday (June 16) with a 2-cock elimination round. The semis is on June 18, while the finals is on June 20.

VV5 cagers triumph

VALLE Verde 5 captured the championship in the juniors division of the 2003 Valle Verde Inter-Village basketball tournament recently. Its Seniors team also won, while the VV5 Cubs took third place. VV5 is composed of Michael Tiu, Morty Fong, JC Go, Xernan Hernandez, Nikki Go, P.J. Gagui, JC Cuasay, martin Syjuco, Ram de los Santos, Timothy Esparaz, Ryan Tan, Harvey Tanedo, John Morente, Justin Quz, Paul Chua and JC Yu. Head coach is William Fong with Emil Morente as his assistant. Charlie Yu is the sports director.

Body Shop sparkles

JVS-The Body Shop downed Memory Magic, 80-74, to set up a rubber match on Sunday for the right to face GNC in the semifinals of the men's division of the Burlington-Philippines Retailers Association Friendship Cup 2003 at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo. York-LA Gear, Toby's and GNC booked outright semis seats after beating Burlington, Montanara and YKL, respectively. The cagefest is a special project of Team Inc. Tournament commissioner is Eusebio "Boy" Ong, while event director is Teddy S. Pereña.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1. Masagana 2. Absurd 3. Magnanimous 4. Ray Moon

Race 3--1. Shen Zhen Girl 2. Dedicated 3. Boss Lino

Race 4--1. Gifted Angel 2. Royal Magic 3. Naglalabyog 4. Great Year

Race 5--1. Sierra Madre 2. Tequila Sunrise 3. Captain Stone 4. Princess Gillian

Race 6--1. Jamie's Princess 2. Earth Angel 3. The Bronx

Race 7--1. Letshaveaparty 2. Rama 3. Ocean Magic

Race 8--1. Jackpot 2. Silver Flyer 3. Shuttle's Magic

Race 9--1. Well Noted 2. Mr. Speaker 3. Hezaballagio 4. Free Again 5. Sovereign Dancer 6. Exchange Deal

PBA needs help in its drug tests

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

I DIDN'T believe it.

Still, I found it my duty to print what the PBA media bureau had to say about the controversial drug testing in the pro league.

Last Friday, PBA press release writers said Commissioner Noli Eala was thankful to both the Senate and the House of Representatives for giving the league the opportunity to answer questions on its campaign against illegal drugs.

Eala said he's confident that all misconceptions about their anti-drug program have been answered in the hearings.

Then, with obvious pride, Eala said he believes the PBA drug testing campaign stood the test.

***

Well, truth is, not even a dozen more press releases could shroud the fact that the PBA drug testing is itself undergoing an excruciating test.

Eala is not solely to blame for the mess.

Just like all who love sports and dear old PBA, we're one in going with Commissioner Eala in his commendable campaign to keep Asia's first pro cage league drug-free.

It's however a pity that we also ended up pitying the poor fellow.

While using only random casting to fish for suspected drug users in the league, Eala readily landed a big one.

Then, going all-out and resorting to mandatory team-by-team testing, he caught what could amount to a boatload.

Blame it on Eala's sincerity that he readily made public the names in the big bunch that flunked the drug test.

He should've first weighed the options.

***

As Al Mendoza would note, "the solution has become part of the problem."

Prior to that sharp comment, a lawyer-relative of Jun Limpot, one of those who had tested positive for banned substances, commented that Eala "had good intention but bad execution."

Eala, as bared by subsequent events, obviously relied religiously on the police lab findings on the urine specimens of the tested cagers.

Just fine, the laboratory results could indeed be fool-proof.

But then, a lot of other factors go into this system of identifying and pinpointing drug users.

The PBA indeed needs to be guided in its anti-drug campaign.

***

Let's listen to what Richard Struempler, who identifies himself as a forensic toxicologist and President of TQM Services, Inc., had to advise the PBA:

"Drug testing as a means of obtaining a drug-free environment is a path in which there can be many obstacles. It is the responsibility of those setting up the program that they understand in detail each of the links and their associated weaknesses, and then address those weaknesses. Drug testing, while new to the PBA, is not a new process in the scientific world.

"One does not have to reinvent the wheel every time there is a need to build a car. Let us look at what others have done, and then utilize the best that there is.

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Urine drug testing has a lot of history. The PBA and those running the drug-testing program can learn from it.

"Theoretical knowledge is good–but practical experience running a program is better.

There must be an awareness of frequently raised issues including: What does a "positive" result really mean? When does a "positive" result not indicate drug abuse? What does a "negative" result really mean? What do "re-test" results really mean? What are common efforts to avoid detection and what do you do about it? What are legitimate explanations for a "positive" results? How do you "defend" a positive result?

If program managers and laboratories cannot answer these questions clearly and accurately, then the path that they are on may lead them to disaster. Remember–if you are not prepared to address these issues, those who have tested "positive" in your program will certainly be ready to address them."

The adviser is requesting concerned parties to contact: TQM Services, Inc. at its Asia Pacific Region office in Unit 306 Alfaro Place, 145 Alfaro St. Salcedo Village, Makati City, Mobile No. 0917 8172610, e-mail: wizatwork@edsamail.com.ph

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: 2002 US Open Official Film; 9 a.m. (r); ESPN - Take a look back at Tiger Woods' second US Open victory in last year's tournament.

2003 US Open Preview; 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.(r); ESPN - Get a head start on all the happenings before the first tee shot is fired.

TENNIS: Wimbledon Films - Rivalries; 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r); 1995 Wimbledon; 8 p.m.; Star Sports - Catch the most memorable highlights of yesteryear.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8 a.m. (r - 1 p.m.) and 5:30 p.m.; ESPN - Earl Strickland goes up against Tommy Donlon and Steve Davis, respectively in separate matches.

BASKETBALL: 1997 NBA Season - A Look Back; 7 p.m. (r); ESPN - Remember old times with a summary of the 1997 NBA season.

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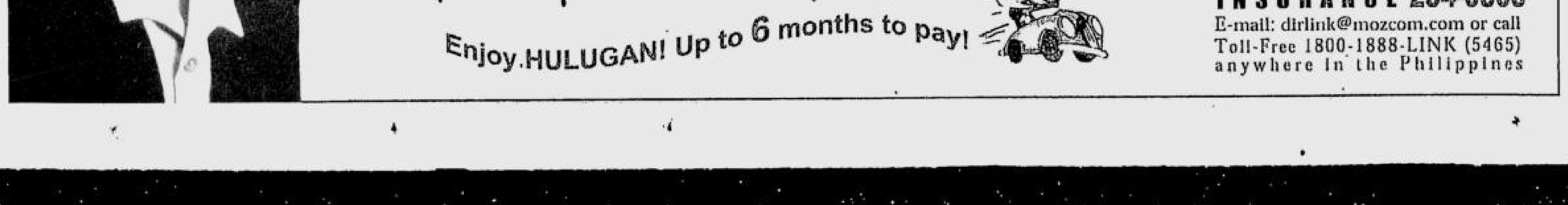

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Parker better than me – Kidd

INJURED BACK AP

Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova checks her back during practice at the Priory in Birmingham, England on Monday for the DFS Classic tournament. A tearful Kournikova withdrew from the Wimbledon warmup tournament after aggravating a back injury. Kournikova, who hasn't played a WTA Tour event in two months, has a chronic back injury and also will not play in next week's tournament at Eastbourne, said Chris Shaw, a spokesman for Britain's Lawn Tennis Association. Her status was uncertain for Wimbledon, which begins June 23.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Tony Parker, at 21, is a better player than Jason Kidd was at that age.

That assessment comes from Kidd himself, who has been outplayed by the speedy second-year point guard from France in two of the first three games of the NBA Finals.

The San Antonio Spurs lead the Nets 2-1 in the best-of-seven series, with Game 4 set for Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) in New Jersey.

"I probably wasn't as good as Tony," said Kidd, who was a rookie with the Dallas Mavericks in 1994-95 when he was 21. "My game was passing and getting the ball to Jimmy (Jackson) and Jamal (Mashburn). I didn't have to score.

"Tony can do scoring and find the open guy, and he runs the team. They would not have won 60-something games if he wasn't as talented as he is."

Parker outdid Kidd in Game 3 by scoring 26 points, including four 3-pointers, with six assists, carrying the Spurs on offense for several key stretches late in the third quarter and early in the fourth as San Antonio took control.

Kidd shot just 6-for-19 with four turnovers and only three rebounds–his second poor game of the series. Kidd shot 4-for-17 in Game 1.

Through the first three games of the finals, there has been one constant: The team that gets the better performance out of its point guard wins.

Parker had 16 points to Kidd's 10 in Game 1, while Kidd scored 30 to Parker's 21 in Game 2 as the Nets won.

The Nets said the key to stopping Parker in Game 4 will be to better defend the high pick-and-roll and side pick-and-roll plays that created so many open shots.

Many times,. Parker would feign going around a screen by Tim Duncan, drop back and shoot his jumper. Other times, he'd use the screen to break toward the middle and shoot a soft floater from 2 meters (6 feet) and in.

"The big man has to be a little more aggressive in making Tony go a different route," Kidd said.

Aside from the X's and O's, there remains a subplot to the Parker-Kidd matchup that was a major focus of the buildup to this series–the possibility that Kidd could become a member of the Spurs over the summer when he becomes a free agent.

Charlotte Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Charlotte's NBA expansion team will be called the "Bobcats," a nod to the owner who spent $300 million for the franchise, The Associated Press has learned.

Bob Johnson selected Bobcats over "Flight" and "Dragons," a source familiar with the process told the AP on Monday on condition of anonymity.

Floyd to Hornets

NEW ORLEANS—Tim Floyd was hired Monday as coach of the Hornets after one of the worst three-year stretches in NBA history with the Chicago Bulls.

Floyd, who lives in the city and once coached the University of New Orleans, reached agreement with the Hornets earlier in the day. Terms of the contract were not announced. *AP*

THE NEW Jersey Devils celebrate their 3-0 win against the Mighty Ducks. AFP

Devils snare Stanley Cup

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Mike Rupp had a goal and two assists and Martin Brodeur collected his third shutout of the finals as New Jersey Devils won the Stanley Cup with a 3-0 victory over the Anaheim Mighty Ducks on Monday.

The Game Seven win gave the Devils their third Stanley Cup in nine years and marked only the 12th time in 110 years of Stanley Cup history, that the finals had gone to a deciding game.

Pulled in Game Six after giving up all five goals in the Ducks 5-2 win, Brodeur rebounded in brilliant fashion, stopping all 24 shots he faced to establish a new NHL record with his seventh shutout of the postseason.

The new mark eclipses the previous record held by Dominik Hasek when he played for the Detroit Red Wings last year. *AP*

Rizal fit to host . . .

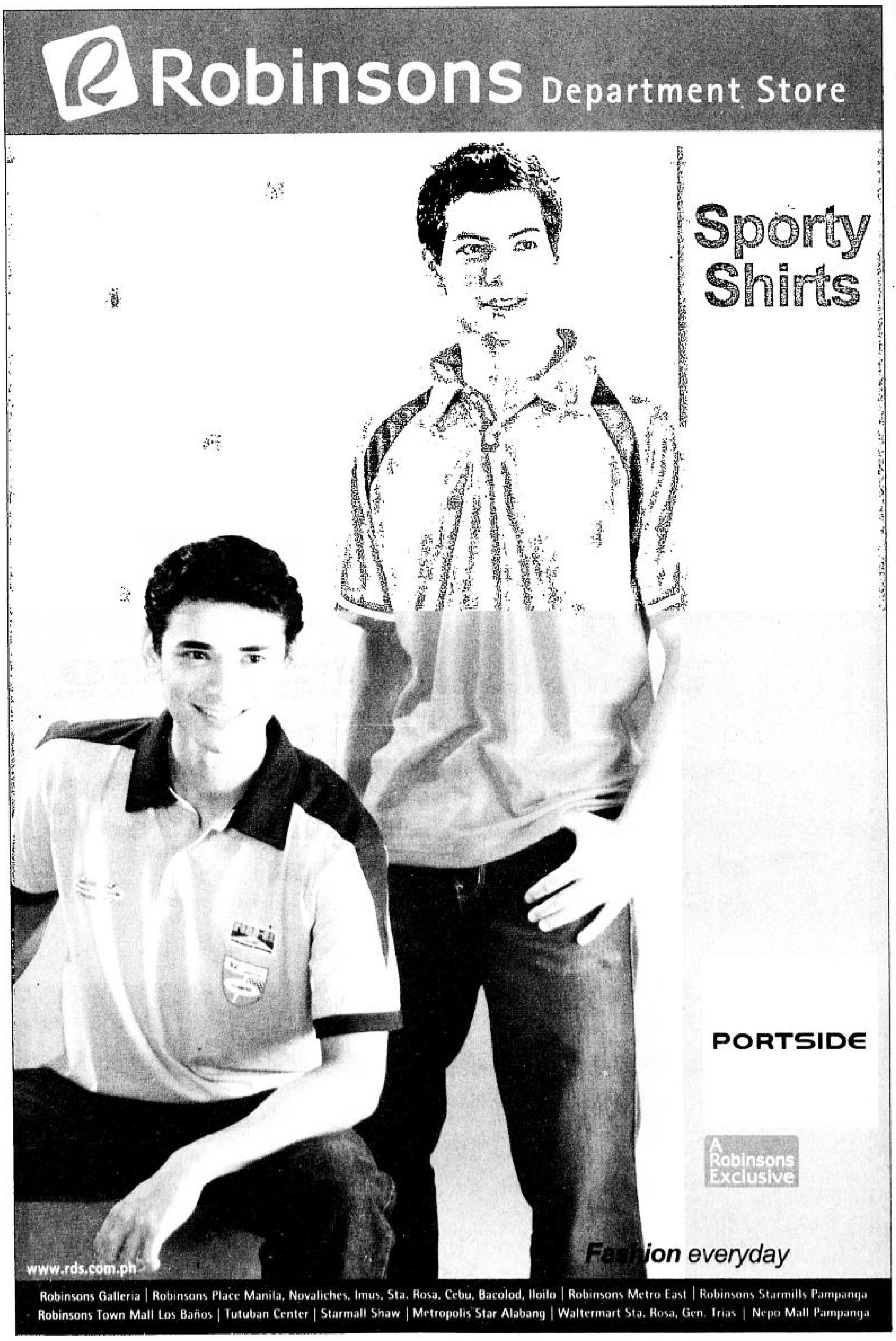
From page A25

lion, including the track and the giant electronic board which has not been functioning for years.

Built in 1934, the stadium has twice staged the Southeast Asian Games and the Asian track and field championships and can accommodate 10,000 spectators around the oval.

The stadium is also being tapped to be a venue in the 2005 SEA Games which the country will again be hosting.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok said Diegel's endorsement of the Rizal stadium was a welcome news because that would definitely reduce the expenses for the four-day event which also includes the Asian Athletics Association congress.



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Fans appeal: re-test PBA players

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I AGREE with the level-headed appeal of many basketball diehards, including Tempo's Tito Talao, an esteemed colleague and president of the PBA Press Corps, that the best solution to end the raging drug scandal in the Philippine Basketball Association is to have all those players tested positive for taking banned substances be examined again, using new urine samples.

"Now this may not sit well with health department officials and police authorities," said Talao, "but that is the only way to bring about normalcy (in the league)."

Methinks this popular appeal to re-test the affected players should be heeded by Commissioner Noli Eala. It is not only fair to the players concerned, but a new test will also erase–in many ways–the ticklish issue of whether or not the players' human rights were violated, that they were not given due process before their names and respective suspensions were announced to the public after the initial tests. Those who will be tested negative in this new series of drug testing may resume playing for their respective mother teams, but sorry *na lang* for those who may be tested positive again.

Speaking of due process, Sen. Robert Jaworksi recently said a Senate hearing revealed that there were indeed errors in the implementation of the PBA drug testing program which were made the basis for imposing penalties on several top-caliber player such as Jun Limpot of Ginebra, Noli Locsin of Talk 'N' Text and Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull. "The players' rights had been violated and this should be addressed immediately," stressed the 56-year-old Jaworski, who cited sections 14 and 17 of the Bill of Rights provision in the Philippine Constitution, guaranteeing that no person shall be held to answer for something without due process.

I have no desire to hurt the feelings of Commissioner Eala, but at the rate bad things are happening one after the other since he replaced Jun Bernardino early this year, one can only surmise that the league could be slowly sinking to its lowest level. For sure, many wouldn't want to be in his shoes right now. As one cage fan said: "I used to admire Noli Eala, but it seems he is losing control of the whole situation. I've never known anyone to become so controversial very quickly."

Banned PBA cagers . . .

From page A25

"We never made any mistake so I can't understand why we're making it appear that way," said Senior Supt. Nestor Ylagan, crime lab deputy director for administration.

"Whatever samples we got and whatever results came out, we stand by (them)," he told reporters in Filipino.

Ylagan's superior Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda came under fire for leaking last week the results of the drug tests.

National police chief Hermogenes Ebdane reprimanded Mosqueda and warned him never to make public any test result anymore.

Despite this, Ylagan said the crime laboratory's findings on the PBA samples were objective and final, based on its agreement with PBA commissioner Noli Eala and the Department of Health.

In the agreement, the PBA tapped Health officers to randomly collect urine samples from players as part of the league's anti-illegal drugs program, Ylagan said.

The DOH will test the specimens for traces of illegal substances then submit the samples to the crime laboratory for "confirmatory" tests, he said.

Should police uphold a DOH finding, a player would be given 15 days to ask the crime laboratory to re-examine the same urine sample, Ylagan added. *With a report from Christian Esguerra*

Boob tube booboos

From page A32

(How- nice!)

Host: Ok! Anything else you want to say? Like, what time will the show be held?

Guest: Well, you know the Philippines, everything starts late. So, the show will start, we can safely say, some late o'clock in the evening!

(Ah, so!)

Host: Your final words, maybe of thanks to your sponsors?

Guest: I want to thank very much the sponsors of my show for choosen me!

(*Yun na!*)

Host: Hold-ups of convenience stores are increasing...

Co-host: Yes, like this report:

Isa na namang 24-hours convenience store *ang na*-hold-up last night. *At natangay ng dalawang holdupper ang halagang* P12!

Host: Any tips for female viewers out there on reproductive health?

Guest: We all should be on the lookout for possible trouble, like cancer. *Kaya, mas mabuti sa mga babae na magkaroon ng reproductive organs at least once a year!*

(Ah, please repeat?)

Host: Back to the convenience store hold-up: How did the holduppers execute the crime?

Co-host: When the customers were gone, the two shenanigans simply went inside the store with their knives!

(The two shenanigans?)

Host: Did they tie up the store personnel?

Co-host: yes, they showed utterly disregard for the rights of the victims!

(*Ay*, utterly disregard!)

Host: So what, can we do to avoid becoming victims of crimes like that?

Co-host: We have to look before you leap!

(OK- aside from that?)

Host: Well, that's all we have time for. Your parting thoughts?

Co-host: We have to be careful so we don't end up becoming victims of crimes against innocent victims!

(*Ay*, innocent victims!)

'Cletis Tout'

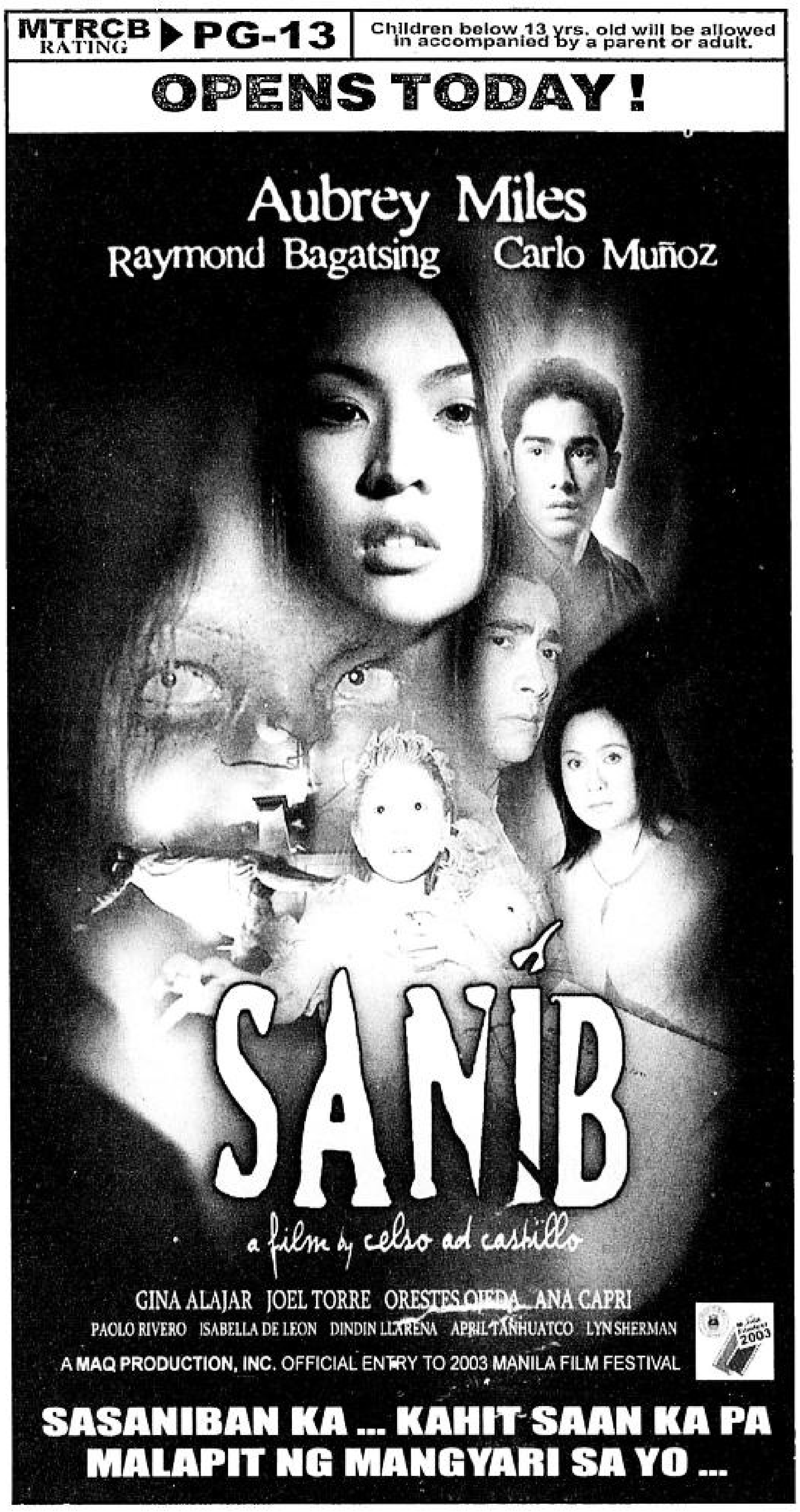
IN the comedy crime caper, "Who Is Cletis Tout?" showing at Greenbelt 1 Artfilm until June 17, **Christian Slater** plays the title character, an ex-convict specializing in falsifying IDs who befriends a magician and jewel thief while in prison.

Together, they escape and assume new identities, hoping to fool the cops so they can dig up a pile of diamonds the jewel thief has hidden under a tree.

However, things get more complicated than they bargained for, with the Mob in hot pursuit and the diamonds tucked away in the last place they expected.

Now, Slater's character will have to deal with the excess baggage that comes with his new identity.

Richard Dreyfuss and **Tim Allen** costar.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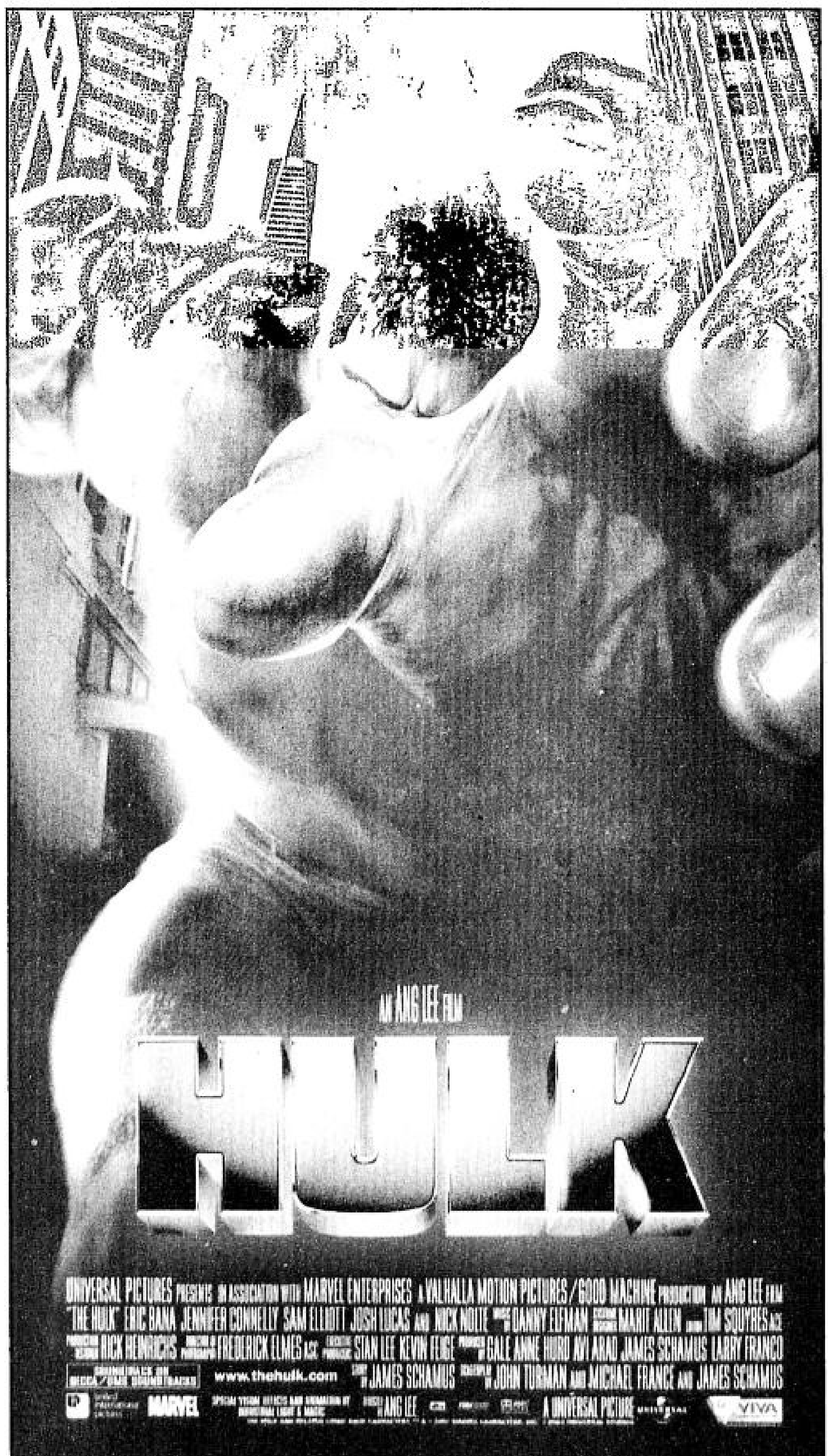
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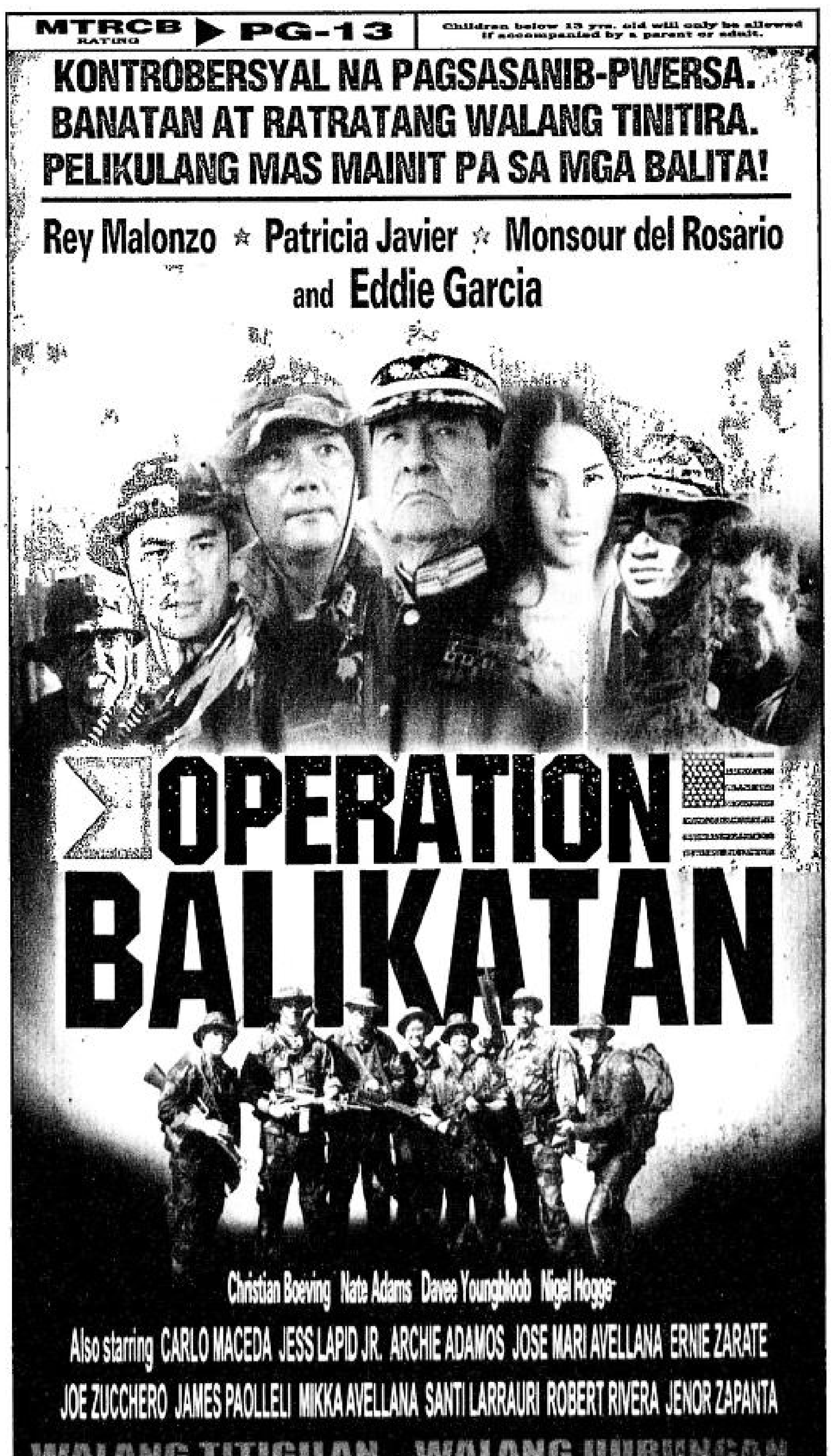
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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ONCE in show biz, always in show biz.

Movie queen **Susan Roces** has not been seen in a new movie for a long while, although she has remained very much in the limelight as the wife of action king **Fernando Poe Jr.** When Regal matriarch **Lily Monteverde** offered her the starring role in the "Mano Po" sequel, the queen was excited.

"I had a good working relationship with Mother Lily when I used to do movies with Regal," Susan said. "That relationship turned into friendship, so I was convinced instantly to do 'Mano Po 2.' Although I had to pray before I decided, it wasn't really a hard decision to make."

Mother Lily said she also prayed a nine-day novena at the Mt. Carmel Church every afternoon at 5:30 so Susan would accept the movie. "Prayers did it for both of us," Mother Lily said.

Like the first "Mano Po," which won 12 awards in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival–including best picture, best director for **Joel Lamangan**; best actress for **Ara Mina** and best supporting actress for **Kris Aquino** –the sequel will be written by **Roy Iglesias**, but it will be directed by **Erik Matti**.

Mother Lily explained that Lamangan, director of the first "Mano Po," was tied down with other projects and couldn't do the sequel in time for the 2003 MMFF.

"But we had Joel's blessings to make the sequel with another director," Mother Lily said.

While the first one was partly filmed in Beijing, China, "Mano Po" the sequel will be shot in Shanghai,. including a big wedding scene, according to Mother Lily.

The Regal producer, who conceptualized the storyline for the first "Mano Po," also gave input to the sequel. The first one hewed closely to Mother Lily's own life, while the sequel is the story of her father-in-law, she said.

Filming will start in the first week of July.

The other stars of the movie are **Christopher de Leon**, **Dina Bonnevie**, **Lorna Tolentino**, **Judy Ann Santos** and Kris Aquino, who is the only member of the original cast.

The story this time will revolve around a Chinese man (Boyet) with three wives (Susan, Dina and Lorna). Kris plays the young Susan.

Susan said she has set certain limitations in making movies now that she is older. "I have aged," she said. "There are certain things you are no longer fit to do or you would look silly or trying hard. But once I say yes to something, I will really do it. *Tatapusin ko.*"

She has also been asked by two TV networks to star in a telenovela, although she hasn't decided on this yet. "I'm still considering the offers," she said. "But saying yes to a movie again wasn't hard because during the years that I didn't make movies, I remained a fan. It's still easy to act because I have always been a movie fan."

Her last movie was in 1997, **Mel Chionglo's** "Isinakdal Ko ang Aking Ina," a joint venture of FPJ Productions and Viva Films that also starred Judy Ann Santos and **Wowie de Guzman**.

When it comes to the much-discussed political plans of her husband, Susan chooses to keep mum.

"We don't talk about it," she said. "What I know is that he will do a movie with **Jolina** (Magdangal), also for the December filmfest.

"More than politics, I'm interested in returning to acting," she said. "In fact, I couldn't sleep after I said yes to Mother Lily. I was really excited."

Regal is known for its multi-million-peso sequels like **Chito Roño's** "Short Cut: Spirit Warriors 2." Mother Lily said the "Mano Po" sequel will definitely have a bigger budget than the first one, which cost P50 million.

STILL A MOVIE FAN. Susan Roces returns to acting, but with limitations this time.

'Singson' shooting

THE CAMERAS started grinding last Thursday for the bio-pic of former Ilocos Sur governor **Luis "Chavit" Singson**, which is now being filmed in Vigan.

Golden Lions Films, which acquired the right to film Singson's colorful and controversial life, brought its production crew, gathered the lead stars, employed nearly a thousand extras and used guns and other weapons for the big scene, the bloody confrontation between the Singson and the Crisologo families.

The first scene was a sequence set in the late '60s. Producer **Donna Villa** and her director-husband **Carlo J. Caparas** had to look for vintage cars and costumes to lend authenticity to the sequence.

Caparas took months to finish the script and he admits it was a tough task to dramatize the life story of a feared, powerful, popular and rich man.

Eddie Garcia plays the elder congressman **Floro Crisologo** and **Pinky de Leon** is the matriarch Gov. **Carmeling Crisologo**. **Tirso Cruz III** plays the son **Bingbong Crisologo**. .Bingbong's life story was earlier filmed with **Rudy Fernandez** in the lead.

BIG CHALLENGE. Carlo J. Caparas directs Chavit Singson biopic.

For years, different producers had been wooing Chavit to agree to the making of a movie based on his life, especially in 2001 after President **Joseph Estrada** was ousted from Malacañang. Chavit had exposed Estrada in the juetengate scandal.

Golden Lions was also behind other true-to-life movies like "Lipa Massacre," "Maggie de la Riva Story," "Myrna Diones Story" and the more recent "Cory Quirino Story." But Caparas confesses the Chavit film-bio is a bigger challenge than the others.

Caparas wrote and directed action-dramas like "Pieta," "Dugong Buhay," "Ayaw Matulog ng Magdamag" and "Kahit Ako'y Lupa."

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
Ali 2	ALAB NG LAHI
Ali 3	SANIB
Ali 4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 6	SANIB
Ali 7	OPERATION BALIKATAN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JUNE 11	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 22	PBA GAMES
JUNE 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES

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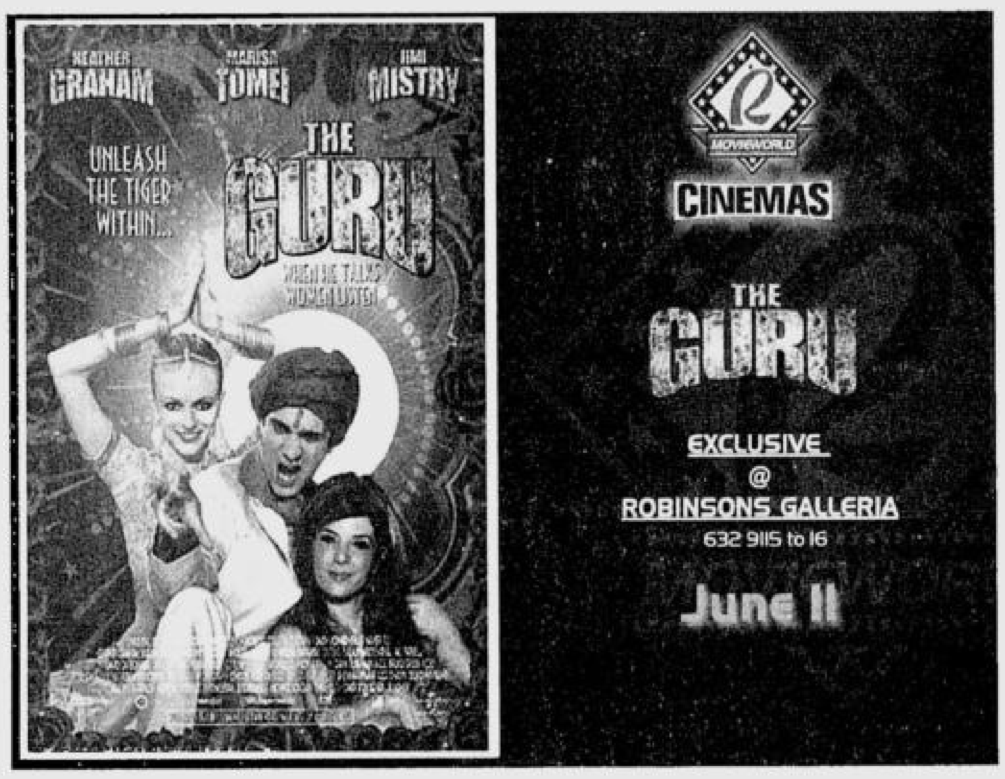

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
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B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SANIB
CINEMA-6	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-7	BERTUD NG PUTIK
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-14	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-15	OPERATION BALIKATAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KITA
CINEMA 2	PUTIK
CINEMA 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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DARKNESS FALLS **PG13** 12:10,2:05,4:00, 5:55,7:50,9:45	**FRIDA** **R18** 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	**BRUCE ALMIGHTY** **PG13** 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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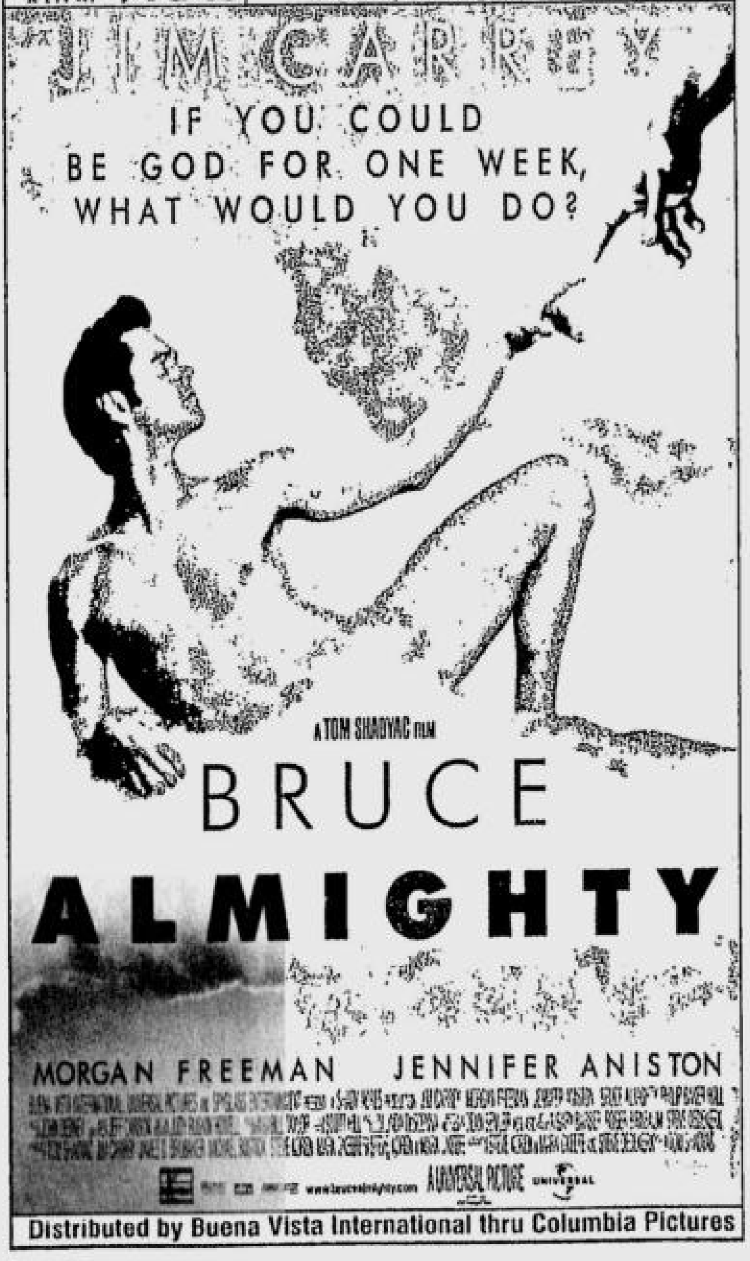

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Kelly Grace at Better Days

GRACE

A KUALA LUMPUR magazine review called Kelly Grace a soulful jazz singer, although she also loves to sing R&B and pop, including Britney Spears, Destiny's Child, Tina Turner, Barbra Streissand and Whitney Houston.

Kelly, who performs at the Sky Lounge of Diamond Hotel on a special limited engagement, is a Puerto Rican-Filipina. She will be leaving for the US to perform in a fundraising show in San Francisco on July 10.

Tomorrow, June 12, Kelly Grace will also be featured in the Independence Day show entitled "Szhen with Friends Inc." at 9 p.m. at Better Days Music Lounge (formerly Jazz Central) on Jupiter Street in Bel-Air, Makati. Special guest is actor-singer Juan Rodrigo.

For details, call 688-0280 or 0916-5681357 and look for Arlene.

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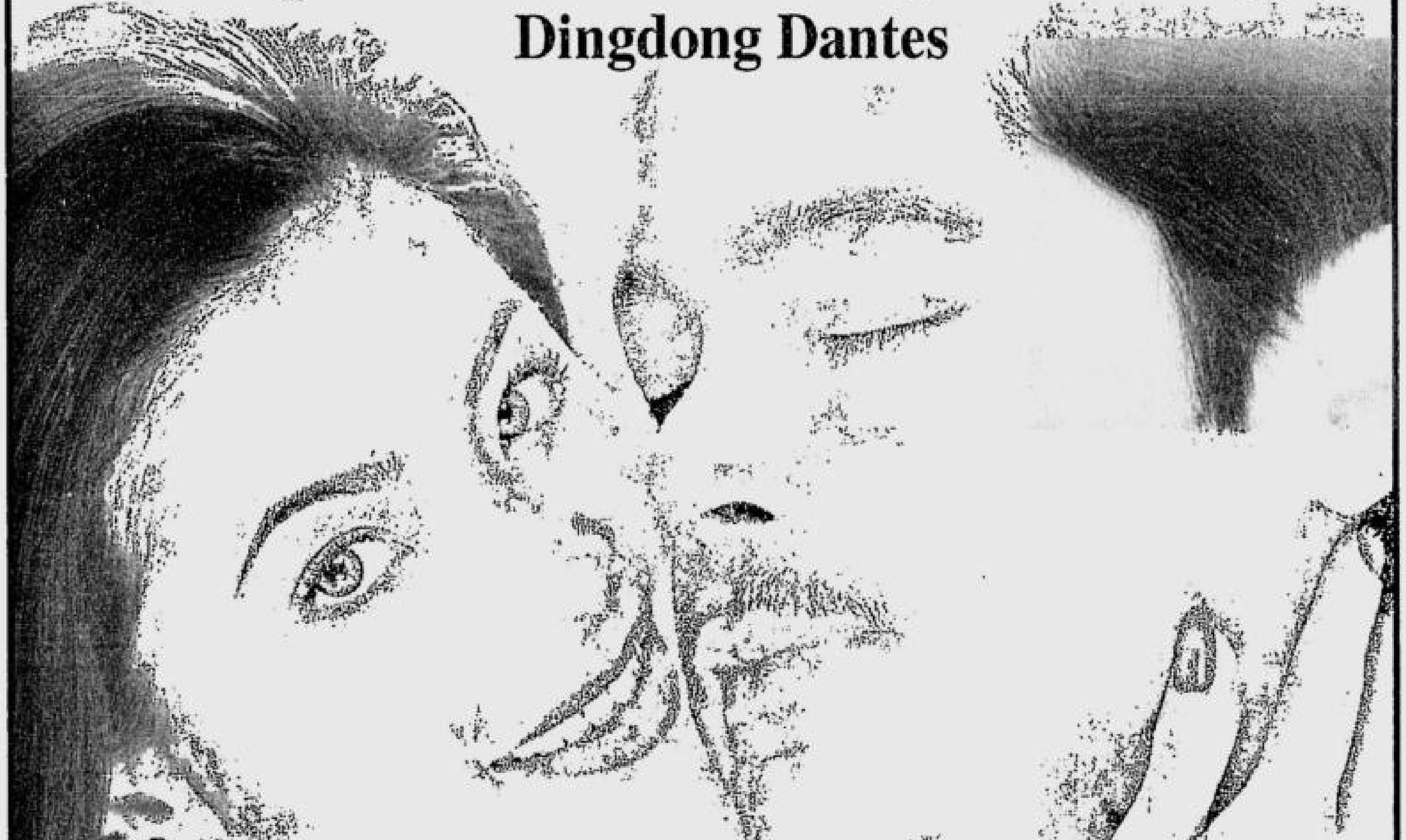
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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Battle is on: 5566 vs F4 vs 'Twins'

By Leah Salterio

DAO Ming Si is about to be tortured and San Cai is about to be kidnapped.

As the plot thickens in ABS-CBN's new Chinovela "Meteor Garden," its counterpart on GMA 7, "My MVP Valentine," premiered last Monday in the same time slot (**see related story on this page**).

Yes, the battle of the Chinovelas is on.

In fact, two months before "Meteor Garden" started its phenomenal success on local TV, Viva TV had started the Chinovela craze when it launched "Amazing Twins," which premiered last March on IBC 13. "Amazing Twins" airs every Saturday, 8 to 9 p.m.

"Amazing Twins" has romance, action and adventure and is set in ancient China.

It will be remembered that Viva TV introduced innovative program genres on Philippine TV like the game shows "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" and "The Weakest Link," and the talent search "Star for a Night."

While "Meteor Garden" which stars the popular Taiwanese boy band F4 or Flower 4, "My MVP Valentine" is topbilled by 5566, another Taiwanese pop group whose debut album has taken many parts of Asia by storm.

The group 5566 is composed of unlikely members: a former pop star, a boy band member, a soccer hero and two new faces. The group has claimed the top spot in record sales charts in Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

The 5566 members are Tony Sun, Zac Wang, Rio Peng, Sam Wang and Jason Hsu. They are not just adept at singing and acting, they also play good basketball.

In basketball-crazy Philippines, GMA 7 is optimistic its new Chinovela will easily win the hearts of hearts. "My MVP Valentine," revolving around high school basketball heroes, has all the elements of a teen drama.

Tony Sun, the leader of 5566, is the hero in "My MVP Valentine."

Zac Wang is the best vocalist in the group and also the wacky host of Taiwan's top-rating show biz news program.

Rio Pang is a talented actor who has worked under famous directors such as Hong Kong's Wong Kar Wai.

Sam Wang, who plays the bad guy, also hosts a reality TV show in China.

Jason Hsu is the youngest in the group and is a commercial model, too.

5566 came out with its recording debut titled "1st Album," which contains 12 fast tunes, punk, rap and R&B. The album rose to the top of the charts after the boys starred in "My MVP Valentine."

In Asia alone, the album has sold close to 350,000 copies.

"My MVP Valentine" is part of GMA 7's offering in celebration of its 53rd anniversary.

THE 5566 quintet (from left, clockwise) Sam Wang, Rio Peng, Jason Hsu, Tony and Zac Wang.

THE "METEOR" four are (from left) Vanness Wu, Vic Zhou, Jerry Yan and Ken Zhu. Not in photo is the girl Barbie Xu.

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The hot boys of 'Meteor Garden'

By Claire Agbayani
Contributor

YOU see them on TV. You hear their voices blaring from radios in jeepneys. You see their faces splashed on posters at the overpass and in the malls.

The boys of F4, described as "the biggest boy band in Asia" and stars of the afternoon soap "Meteor Garden," are hot.

In "Meteor Garden," Jerry Yan is Dao Ming Shi; Vic Zhuo is Hua Ze Lei; Vanness Wu is Mei Zhuo; Ken Zhu is Xi-Men; and Barbie Xu is San Cai.

Like their characters

"Meteor Garden," incidentally, is adapted from *manga* or the Japanese comic series "Hana Yori Dango" (Boys are Better than Flowers). "Hana Yori Dango" is a cult favorite that has spawned a very popular animated series, a movie, and, of course, "Meteor Garden."

All four members of F4 portray roles in "Meteor Garden" that are similar to their real-life personalities.

Jerry, 25, claims that he is aggressive and direct when he likes a girl. "When it comes to love, (Dao Ming Shi and I) are similar," he says. "When I like someone, I am direct about revealing how I feel."

Vic, 22, is somewhat a recluse and is uncomfortable with the attention the group has been getting. "When the show became popular, I became even more reclusive like him (Hua Ze Lei)," he says. "I'm afraid of the press spotting me if I go out in ratty clothes, so I simply refuse to go out anymore."

Vanness, 24, is in real life as easy-going and fun-loving as the happy-go-lucky character he portrays, Mei Zhuo. Believing that "love knows no boundaries," Vanness has had girlfriends in Vietnam, China and Korea.

Ken, 24, is a diehard romantic. He reveals that his first love was a "cute Malaysian girl, a friend of my sister's." Unfortunately, the girl went to Australia for further studies.

Discoveries

Jerry was a part-time model while still in school. He caught the public eye when he won the modeling competition of "Uno", a Taiwanese men's magazine. He had already starred in many commercials before he was hand-picked for "Meteor Garden."

Vic was a mechanical engineering student at a Taiwanese technical institute. He had accompanied a friend to audition for a role in "Meteor Garden." He was discovered by the producers instead.

Ken, born in Taiwan but raised in Singapore, was a captain waiter in a Japanese BBQ restaurant when he was discovered by the show's producers. He actually considered becoming a sushi chef before his fate changed.

American-born Vanness came to Taiwan wanting to be a part of the entertainment scene in his parents' native land. He joined a male talent contest when the "Meteor Garden" producers asked him to audition.

Halfway through the filming of the first season of "Meteor Garden," the boys recorded "Meteor Rain." The album has 10 radio-friendly tracks, written in Mandarin, but peppered with English lyrics and done in Western style.

Their second album, "Fantasy 4Ever," features the hit "Can't Lose You" (better known as "Oh baby, baby, my baby baby") and their second single "Season of Fireworks." In this album, Jerry also sings "I Truly Love You."

CDs and VCDs

Two F4 VCDs are up for release: the "Meteor Rain" karaoke VCD, featuring videos for all songs on "Meteor Rain" plus lyrics to sing along to, plus the "Fantasy 4 Live Concert World Tour," a two-hour VCD featuring live performances by F4 and a special footage of Jerry and Vanness dancing.

"Broken Vow" by Lara Fabian, the theme song from "Meteor Garden," is already a huge hit on Philippine radio and music channel charts. This song is in "Meteor Garden 2: The Original Soundtrack" together with other songs featured in the series like Eric Carmen's "All by Myself" and Chayanne's "Te Amo."

The album comes with a special bonus VCD of videos with footage from the telenovela and an exclusive, ultra-thick booklet with lots of photos, character profiles, lyrics, as well as a sneak peak into "Meteor Garden's" second season.

Also coming soon is a double VCD of their sold-out successful concert, "F4 Live in Hong Kong."

More good news: Each F4 member is coming up with a solo album. Vic's is "Make a Wish," and Vanness' is "Body Can Sing."

Now, when is the multi-platinum act coming to perform in the Philippines? Their hordes of fans are waiting with bated breath.

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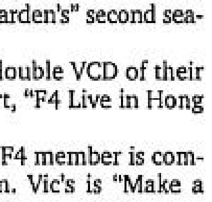

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Tell us more about your upcoming fashion show. Are you excited?

Guest: Oh, yes! Well, what can I say, *ba*? Well, it's a mini fashion show of 172 dresses...

(That's a mini fashion show?)

Host: Whom do you like designing clothes for?

Guest: Anybody as long as their taste is green.

(Huh?)

Host: What about show biz people, do you like designing for stars?

Guest: I can design for them, why not? But frankly speaking, I like more normal people to wear my dress.

(What are you saying?!)

Host: Who is sponsoring the show?

Guest: I have to be in evening in black TB.

(*Ano raw*?)

Host: So, you mean the fashion show is for charity?

Guest: Oh yes, I am happy to charity benefit show!

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BSP says interest rates near bottom

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas sees very little room for local interest rates to further go down after the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate dipped to the 5-percent level.

In an interview yesterday, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the government's projected budget shortfall of P202 billion this year would hamper a further easing of interest rates.

"Remember that they still have a deficit of P200 billion that will have to be financed in addition to payment of interest so there will always be demand for the national government to borrow, notwithstanding (National Treasurer Sergio) Edeza saying that they have flexibility," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said he expected interest rates to be nearing the bottom but said he would be happy if the rates would stabilize at current levels.

Treasury bill rates fell across all maturities for the fourth consecutive auction on Monday due to the recent initiatives of the BSP to free up more liquidity into the financial system. The 91-day rate, used by banks to price their loans, fell to an average of 5.666 percent or the lowest level since February, from 6.302 percent during the previous fortnightly auction.

"I would say that if we can keep interest rates stable where they are today, that would be already a very good accomplishment on everybody's part," Buenaventura said.

He noted that the BSP need not cut its overnight borrowing rate even if the US Federal Reserve would cut its policy rate by 50 basis points as expected by the market.

"As I said before, you can lower the nominal rates, you can increase liquidity and all of them have the same impact of lowering interest rates," Buenaventura said.

During its monthly monetary policy-setting meeting last week, the BSP maintained its overnight borrowing rate at 7 percent and its overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent—the same levels over the last 15 months. Easing was done, however, through the revival of the tiering system, which makes it less attractive for banks to place funds with the BSP.

But even if the bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate would not ease significantly, Buenaventura said there should be further lowering in bank's lending rates.

"I think lending rates will definitely come down because the pricing on loans is always a percentage over T-bill rate. Their opportunity is to invest in T-bills or in loans," he said.

The Monetary Board's advisory council presented last week an option to reduce by one-percentage point the reserve requirement on banks—in order to lower intermediation costs—but said the board would have to study the proposal.

PLDT to cut debt by $200M in '03

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest telecoms player, said yesterday it expected to reduce consolidated debt by about $200 million this year.

The company was able to reduce $127 million of debt using funds generated internally in 2002, chief executive officer Manuel Pangilinan said at the firm's annual shareholders' meeting.

"We ended last year with an impressive reduction in PLDT debt. This year, we intend to reduce consolidated debt by a larger amount of around $200 million," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan also said: "I am pleased to report that $644 million of debt falling due between 2002 and 2004 was refinanced successfully, representing about 50 percent of total loans due within that period." The group is estimated to have total debts of about $3 billion.

PLDT shares had risen 71.3 percent as of June 9 and were up 50.9 percent against the main index, with investors encouraged by continued robust cellular revenue growth, cost reduction efforts and the successful refinancing of about $1.3 billion in debt maturing between 2002 and 2004. *Reuters*

INDICATORS

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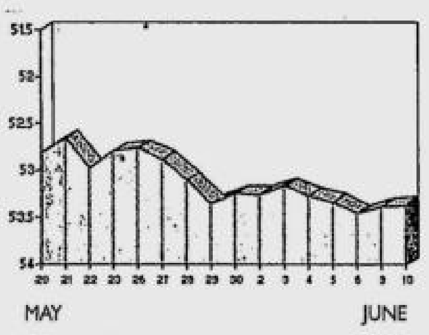

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P 53.365 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2003

¥ 118.16 = $ 1

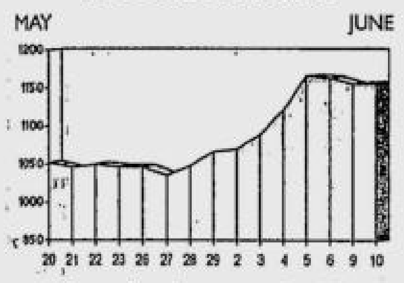
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2003

GOLD: $359.30/359.80

per ounce Hong Kong, June 10, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up slightly

SHARES eked out slight gains yesterday in seesaw trade as the market groped for direction after its strong rally last week was tempered by the recent weakness in the Dow Jones.

Mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. and dominant phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. pushed the market to end higher in late-minute buying.

The Philippine composite index inched up 0.54 point or 0.05 percent to end at 1,156.25 points. But the broader All Shares Index lost 15.18 points, or 2.08 percent, at 714.59 points.

"There's mixed news in the market," said April Lee-Tan, research head at Citisecurities Inc.

"There's T-bill rates going down with benign inflation ... which is good for the banking and property stocks. But there's also the weak performance of Wall Street, plus profit taking as well."

Market turnover narrowed to P462.83 million from P592.24 million on Monday. Losers outpaced gainers, 36 to 26, while 38 issues were unchanged.

Citisecurities' Lee-Tan said it was possible that the market would continue its rally after its technical correction in recent days.

"The rally last week was a very positive sign that interest is returning to the market," she said. *Reuters*

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P100,000 - P299,999	Nokia Hands Free Head Set	Rice Cooker (National SR-W10N)	Buffet Breakfast for two (2) adults at Manila Diamond Hotel, or Breakfast for two (2) adults and two (2) children** (Provincial)
P300,000 - P499,999	Buddy 3388 with Smart SIM	Washing Machine (Sharp ES-6810WS)	Overnight Stay at a Hotel for two (2) adults and two (2) children of your chosen destination**
P500,000 - above	Nokia 3315 with Smart SIM	Microwave Oven (Whirlpool AVM542)	Three (3) days and two (2) nights stay at a Hotel for two (2) adults and two (2) children of your chosen destination**

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Garden Orchids Hotel, Zamboanga

3. For joint accounts, the primary depositor shall be the recipient of the wish coupon.
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5. The 3 Wishes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
6. Transportation to and from the destination is excluded from the leisure package.
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8. If the deposit is pre-terminated before the five (5)-year term, the cost of the gift item plus the corresponding penalties shall be deducted from the proceeds of the deposit.
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Asean, E.Asia experts warn on need for energy security

KUALA LUMPUR—Top energy officials and experts from Southeast Asian nations and China, Japan and South Korea warned Tuesday of the need to strengthen energy security in the face of growing demand.

They called for "individual and multilateral efforts for greater emergency preparedness in the short-term, greater energy efficiency, diversification of types and sources and development of indigenous petroleum in the long term."

The recommendation came at the end of a two-day meeting of officials and oil company experts from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and their northern counterparts who together make up a grouping known as Asean-plus-Three.

Their conclusions will be forwarded to a meeting of energy ministers from the 13 nations early next month on Langkawi island in northern Malaysia.

"In Asia, the time will come when oil production will no longer be sustained to support increasing demand," Malaysia's representative, Halim Shafie, told the workshop here.

Diversification to other fuels such as natural gas, as well as stockpiling and the development of new and renewable energy sources were some possible solutions, he said.

Japan's Yasuo Tanabe of the ministry of economy, trade and industry urged the participants to consider ways and means of enhancing regional energy security and areas of joint cooperation.

A draft summary of the meeting said the experts recognized that energy demand in Asia, especially for oil, would increase rapidly along with economic expansion in the region.

It said participants agreed that the primary goal of enhancing cooperation was to ensure a stable supply of energy at a reasonable cost in an environmentally friendly manner.

They agreed to establish four groups with coordinators from selected countries to study issues including security, oil supply and demand and the use of natural gas.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

Oil firms to run Pandacan venture firm by year's end

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL oil giants Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Phil. Inc. and Petron Corp. will be starting partial operations of the joint venture firm that will operate the Pandacan oil depot in Manila by the end of the year.

Shell chair and president Eliseo Santiago said in an interview yesterday that the new operating firm, Pandacan Oil Terminals Services Inc., would serve as part of the permanent solution to the Pandacan oil depot issue.

"The permanent solution is really the scale down of operations. We remain committed to do what we've said we'll do as stated in our memorandum of understanding with the Manila city government. We're also continuing dialogs with the city government for the amendment of the ordinance," he told reporters.

City Ordinance 8027 provided for the reclassification of the oil depot's location into a commercial zone from an industrial zone. It took effect April 30 with the expiration of the memorandum of understanding between City Hall and the oil firms.

To prevent the total closure of the depot, the oil firms signed an agreement with the city government to scale down its operations there as well as provide a "green" buffer zone between the oil tanks and the residential areas.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza had earlier said that the oil firms failed to comply with these provisions of the agreement.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said, however, that the three oil firms had already dismantled 19 of the 28 tanks that they had agreed to dismantle by 2004. Operations of the depot would continue to be scaled down in the coming months.

"The most viable option is still a scale down. We're urging the oil firms to accelerate the removal of all other structures to make way for the linear park to be constructed there," he said in an earlier interview.

Santiago said the accelerated scale down would continue, although it would be quite difficult to rush it as all necessary equipment like oil pipelines and the like could not be bought "off-the-shelf" but custom-made and imported.

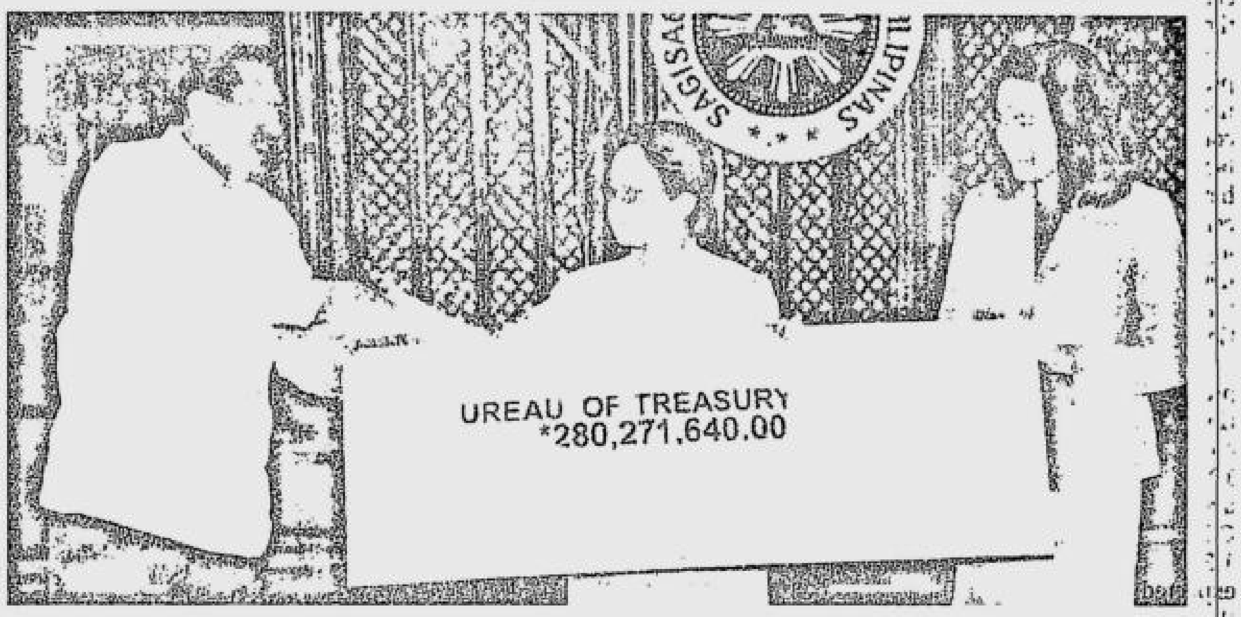
He said some of the needed materials for the scaled down facility would be in the country before year's end.

The joint venture firm would be completely operational by the middle of next year, he added.

As for investments in the new operating company, Santiago said each of the three oil giants put in equal shares. management of the firm would be evenly split as well.

"We'll spend whatever it takes to be able to live up to our commitment. We're still working with the city of Manila," he said.

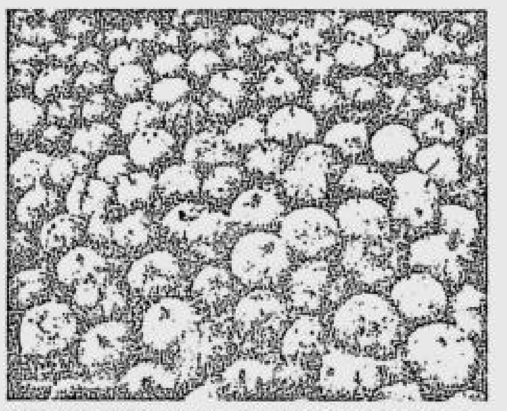
Under the new depot set-up, all base fuel will be co-mingled, but the additives will remain separate. This means that Shell's Velocity will have a different formulation from Petron's Blaze and Caltex's Vortex although the three oil firms will share the same depot.



PHILIPPINE National Oil Company (PNOC) remits check for P280 million to the National Government. Photo shows PNOC President and CEO Thelmo Y. Cunanan handing over the first half of PNOC's P560 million remittance to the national government, representing 50 percent of its total annual earnings for year 2002, to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Deputy Treasurer Nina Figueroa at simple ceremonies in Malacañang last week. The law mandates government corporations to remit 50 percent of their annual income to the Bureau of Treasury.

Agri dep't calls for release of ₱5B for harvest facilities

By Christine A. Gaylican



THE DELAY in the fund release has caused a decline in the production of copra derived from coconuts.

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE AGRICULTURE Department has asked the government to immediately release its P5-billion budget for the construction of post-harvest facilities to spur agricultural production.

Agriculture Assistant for Policy and Planning Secretary Segfredo Serrano said in an interview that the delay in the release of these funds has already caused a decline in the production of copra, the country's leading agriculture export derived from the coconut.

"We have a problem in drying our copra and there are not enough funds from government to put up post-harvest facilities," Serrano said.

The Philippines is the world's largest supplier of coconut oil in the international market.

Undried copra has high-levels of alflatoxins, which lowers the quality of the product and the selling price to the world market.

Serrano also said that current product standards of the country's agriculture exports should also be updated to conform with international standards such as the Codex Alimentarius—the European agency that tests compliance with product standards.

He added that the personnel at the Bureau of Agricultural Product Standards (BAPS) needs to be beefed up.

"But how can we hire the personnel if there are no funds to fill up the plantill a position for BAPS? It has been pending (with the Department of Budget of Management) for the last five years," said Serrano.

Lorenzo predicts rice sufficiency in '04

ABU DHABI—The Philippines is expected to be 97 percent self-sufficient in rice by next year, with the production yield doubling by 2005.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. made the prediction in a speech before the ongoing second Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification.

Lorenzo said the country would implement a water conservation scheme to provide adequate water for agriculture as well as for industrial and domestic purposes.

"To fully ensure sustainability of our freshwater supply, we are studying the use of a water classification scheme which will help us identify water resources best suited for agricultural, industrial and domestic use," Lorenzo said.

Agriculture dominates the country's economic activity, producing a fifth of all its goods and services and a tenth of its exports.

About two-thirds of the population and three-fourths of the poor depend on the agricultural sector for livelihood, he added.

"Given that almost 70 percent of all available freshwater resources are used for agriculture, the sustainable management of our water resources sits high on our list of priorities," Lorenzo told the conferees.

"Take rice for instance. We Filipinos are a rice-consuming people. Unfortunately, it takes an enormous amount of water to produce the crop," he said.

Data from the Agriculture Department showed that about one to three cubic meters of water yield just one kilo of rice and at least 1,000 tons of water are needed to produce one ton of grain," he said.

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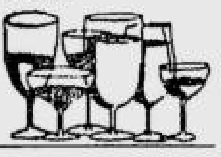
COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

FUND manager Lilia Clemente is facing a sodden spring in her home base in New York and an even more stormy weather in Makati.

Today at the Big Apple, the First Philippine Fund Inc., a closed-end investment company being managed by Clemente and her husband, will hold a special stockholders' meeting amid renewed agitation among US shareholders to liquidate the moribund fund.

In her land of birth, Clemente stands accused of estafa by National Artist Alejandro Roces before the Makati regional trial court, which has issued a warrant of arrest against Clemente. The petite, 61-year-old fund manager sounded surprised after hearing of the court case, which stemmed from a soured investment placement, when Cocktales called her on Friday.

Established during the early Aquino years, the First Philippine Fund rode on the crest of investor euphoria that swept the country after the overthrow of the Marcos regime. The fund allowed American and foreign institutional investors to invest in Philippine-listed companies through the New York Stock Exchange-listed fund.

From a high of nearly $23 per share in 1994, the First Philippine Fund dropped like a stone in the twin blows of the Asian currency crisis and the Estrada presidency. It lately has been stirring to life, buoyed by the pro-business polices of the GMA administration, closing on Friday at $2.75 from its 52-week low of $2.12 on March 12.

Despite the rebound, the US shareholders, represented by the powerful Institutional Shareholders Services, still want to amend the charter of the First Philippine Fund to allow by a simple majority vote the liquidation and dissolution of the fund instead of the present 75-percent vote requirement.

A similar push during the last annual stockholders' meeting in October was defeated after it failed to obtain the required 75-percent vote.

Directors of the fund, who aside from the Clementes include three executives from Philippine National Bank, former Rep. Stephen Solarz, Fordham University president Joseph O'Hare, former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, and John Espiritu (son of ex-Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu), recommended in March the liquidation proposal.

A Reuters report said the directors decided on a plan of liquida-

COCKTALES/ B5

IT firm expands in Clark

CYBER City Teleservices Ltd. (CCTLL), a leading IT company in Clark, is embarking on $25-million investment expansion plan in an effort to generate more jobs at the economic zone over the next two years.

CCTLL, now in the process of hiring 600 new employees, is completing another facility that would have a 200-seat call center in a new building it got through a new lease from the Clark Development Corp. (CDC).

CCTLL senior vice president Gorge Sorio said the firm started with 30 workers in 1998, including management. Today, CCTLL employs 1,300 workers and is expected to increase the number of employees to about 7,200 in less than three years.

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.750%	7.000%	7.250%
₱5,000,001 and above	7.000%	7.250%	7.500%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.500%	1.500%	1.500%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.875%	1.875%	1.875%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.750%	2.750%	2.750%
$ 500,001 and above	3.125%	3.125%	3.125%

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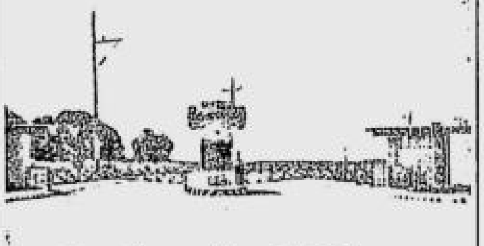

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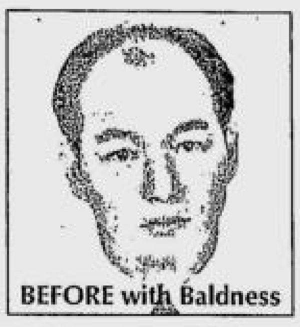

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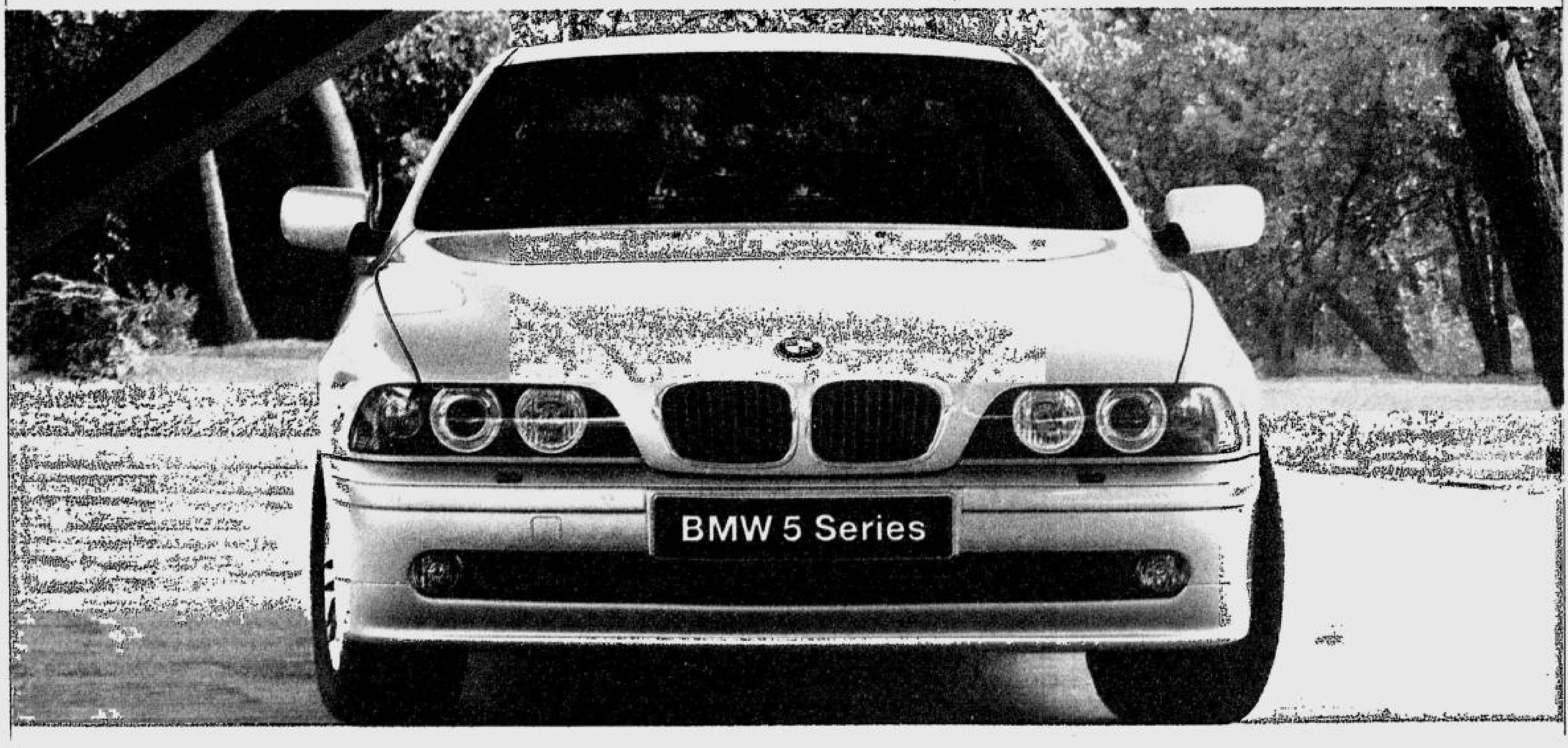

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San Miguel seen posting 12% increase in beer sales

SAN Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, likely increased domestic beer volumes by 12 percent in April from a year ago, sustaining a strong first-quarter growth, a source close to the company said yesterday.

For the first four months of the year, domestic beer sales volumes were likely to have grown more than 10 percent from a year earlier, the source said.

The company, South East Asia's largest food and beverage group, recorded a 10-percent volume growth in local beer sales in the first quarter, powering a 12- percent climb in revenue and a 21-percent jump in net income.

A study released by CLSA Securities last week said that San Miguel's core beverage units sustained strong volume growth in April this year, largely due to heavy promotions and the positive impact of additional dealers nationwide.

"If the trend continues for the rest of the year, then beer volume sales should easily reach 147 million cases for 2003," the study said.

This would be a major improvement from the 134.3 million cases sold last year and the first time in recent years that the company would have posted two years of continued growth," it said.

Beer—comprising about a fifth of San Miguel's consolidated sales—is the group's banner product with a 90-percent share of the local market.

Strong domestic beer sales should also compensate for any losses the group would incur from its China brewery operations, which the company earlier said was hurting from a decline in tourism and consumer spending due to the SARS virus, CLSA said.

San Miguel, partly owned by Japan's Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd., has four breweries in China and Hong Kong, as well as a glass plant, a bottle crown line and a plastics plant in China.

The group's non-alcoholic beverage unit Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.—accounting for about 28 percent of the group's total sales—recorded a 12-percent climb in sales volume in April, the source also said.

CLSA said Ginebra San Miguel, the group's liquor unit, may have posted a 17-percent year-on-year growth in April sales volumes, with its four-month sales growth at 13 percent.

Despite the group's strong sales volume, CLSA maintained its sell recommendation on San Miguel as its valuations were currently at historical highs and future upside seemed limited. San Miguel's A shares, restricted to local investors, closed down 50 centavos at P54.50. Its B shares, open to all investors, ended flat at P64. The main index slid 0.05 percent to close at 1,156.25 points. *Reuters*

ING upgrades outlook for SM Prime

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE EQUITY research arm of ING, a European financial conglomerate, has raised its profit forecast for SM Prime Holdings by a range of 3 percent to 10 percent for fiscal years 2003 to 2005 on the assumption that the Philippines would achieve higher-than-expected domestic economic growth.

ING said it had adjusted upward its gross domestic product growth forecast for the Philippines from 3.7 percent to 4.1 percent this year.

ING explained that the projection was adjusted because there appeared to be expansion in the manufacturing sector, which beat expectations by posting a 5.3-percent growth in the first quarter, the highest in the past three years.

"Combined with the recent steady decline in interest rates amid benign inflation, this should result in a significant improvement in consumption," ING said.

The financial group said SMPH should benefit from improving consumption level in terms of higher mall same-store sales and new mall space take-up. It said the mall operator should post a profit of P4.271 billion in 2003, P4.905 billion in 2004 and P6.019 billion in 2005. The previous profit projections were P4.15 billion for 2003; P4.739 billion, 2004, and P5.454, 2005.

As the largest mall operator in the Philippines, with a customer base covering all major economic classes, SM Prime should be a major beneficiary of the now improved economic growth prospects, the financial group asserted.

ING said it had raised its 2003-2005 profit projection for SMPH after assuming the company would have a 2 percent to 6 percent increase in revenue.

"A high fixed-cost mix means any top-line growth flows directly to the bottom line," ING said.

ING said SMPH was one of its top buys with a P7 per share target and a price-to-earning ratio of 16 times for this year.

"The biggest impact (of increased consumption) would be in terms of improved same-store sales growth by SMPH's mall tenants. We conservatively estimate a growth of 8 percent, from 6 percent previously. Since SMPH links the rentals it receives from its tenants as a percentage of turnover, this should mean an increase in rental revenues. We forecast that such a growth rate would be maintained throughout FY03-05," ING said.

ING also said it was now assuming that SM Prime would experience greater mall space take-up in 2003 to 2005.

From an average of 63,000 sq.m. of net leasable space annually, ING predicted that the mall space take-up would rise to an average 67,000 sq.m. per year.

"We believe SMPH's potential tenants will take up new space more quickly due to the more robust retail sales expected in the next three years," ING said.

FPHC posts P1.1B in net income

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp., the holding company for the power and infrastructure projects of the Lopez group, posted a net income of P1.1 billion in the first four months of this year.

FPHC president and chief operating officer Elpidio Ibañez said the company was targeting a full-year profit of P3 billion this year, much higher than the nearly P2-billion profit posted last year.

The company expects $40 million in dividends from First Generation Holdings Corp.

Ibañez also disclosed that the company was negotiating a $30-million borrowing to refinance debts and was also eyeing another $20 million from a still unidentified source.

He, however, neither confirmed nor denied that the company was in talks for the sale of an asset.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that FPHC had promised creditor banks that aside from new borrowings, about P1 billion from the sale of an asset would be used to pay $60 million in principal debt that matured last month but was extended by creditors to end this month.

Ibañez said the company might seek further extension in the debt payment schedule in a meeting with creditors today.

FPHC last April signed an agreement to secure $35 million from the Asian Infrastructure Mezzanine Fund. It will start drawing from the fund upon compliance with certain conditions.

Aside from the $60 million in principal debt owed to creditor banks maturing this month, FPHC has various short-term obligations amounting to P220 million and P800 million in long-term commercial papers that are maturing this year. *Elena R. Torrijos*

INTEREST RATES

June 10, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 10-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 9-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	5.9854	6.5577
3 Months	5.975	6.6077
6 Months	6.8635	7.4135
1 Year	7.3125	7.5673
2 Years	8.2654	8.3058
3 Years	9.2519	9.3231
4 Years	9.8654	9.9192
5 Years	10.3173	10.5038
7 Years	10.9712	11.0462
10 Years	11.3673	11.4442
20 Years	11.8615	11.8865
25 Years	12.3308	12.325

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Security Bank profit up 71%

SECURITY Bank yesterday said it had posted a 71-percent increase in profit in the first five months of this year to P408 million.

In a statement, Security Bank said the five-month figure represented 80 percent of the bank's 2002 full year's income of P528 million.

In an interview yesterday, Security Bank president and chief executive Rafael Simpao Jr. said the bank was targeting this year a 20-25 percent increase in profit from last year's level.

"Despite what looks like another challenging year for Philippine business, we remain confident of meeting our income targets for 2003 and registering an improvement in our financial performance for the fourth consecutive year," Simpao said.

He explained that, as in the first five months, full-year profit growth would be driven by fee-based income, cost-reduction programs and more focused channels of distribution.

The bank has been diversifying its revenue base by building up fee-based income through intensified cross-sale of banking services and the introduction of new products. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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GG & A Club Shares

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,200,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"		80,000
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	135,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	Please Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Club Filipino	100,000	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Fontana "A"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	-	2,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	300,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	270,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"		90,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	745,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	165,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,300,000	6,600,000

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Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
323i	2000	Alpine White	18k	1,775,000.00	1,700,000.00
316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,760,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	6k	1,870,000.00	1,820,000.00
318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,900,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,775,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	3,000,000.00

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	835,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 10, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.25	16	16	7,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44	43	43	1,213,700
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	30
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	399,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29	28	28.5	317,100
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	22.75	23	204,500
Philippine Trust Co.	60	60	60	60	4,900
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	6,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	78,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	18,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1470	1470	1470	300
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1070	1070	50
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	15	15	21,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,030,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	615	615	610	615	94,640
Ipeople Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	2,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3.15	3	3.15	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,750,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	460	467.5	460	467.5	167,950
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	360,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.3	582,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.25	11.25	11	11.25	489,000
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.8	9,056,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	308,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	105,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.62	1.5	1.62	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	2,330,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16	16.25	16	16	469,900
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	190,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	180,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	308,500
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63	64	192,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	5,753,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	836,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	5,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	4,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.72	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	6,740,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	400,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2	1,355,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	611,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.72	0.75	7,420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	300,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.56	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	290,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	48,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	1,200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	200,000
SPi Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	10,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.52	0.44	0.52	17,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	140,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	490,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.39	0.42	890,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15.25	15.25	15	15.25	26,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	3,658,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.17	2,240,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	4,360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.92	7,420,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	60,000
Primex Corp.	2.8	3	2.8	3	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	97,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	16,009,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0932	0.0032	15,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	48,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	90,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.021	0.025	0.021	0.024	20,600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	220,000

DISCLOSURES

ABRA Mining & Industrial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 29, 8 a.m. at the company's main office in Bangued, Abra.

* * *

ABACUS Consolidated Resources and Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 9 a.m. at the Café Centennial of Club Filipino, San Juan.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Semirara Mining Corp.** were David Consunji, Isidro Consunji, Victor Consunji, Herbert Consunji, Jorge Consunji, Victor Macalincag, Cesar Buenaventura, George San Pedro, Federico Puno, Jose Antonio Leviste and Eduardo Manalac.

* * *

GLOBAL Business Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 4 p.m. at the Penthouse of Metrobank Plaza, Makati City.

* * *

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 5 p.m. at the Manansala A & B, 4/F of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **FILINVEST Land Inc.** were Mercedes Gotianun, Andrew Gotianun Jr., Joseph Yap, Josephine Yap, Jonathan Gotianun, Lim Swe Guan, Richard Teo, Alfredo Asuncion and Lamberto Ocampo.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Security Bank Corp.** were Frederick Dy, Paul Ung, Philip Ang, Efren Aranzamendez, Anastasia Dy, Jose Facundo, James Hung, Jose Pepetuo Lotilla, Eduardo Plana, Rafael Simpao Jr. and Alberto Villarosa.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 10, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.853170	1.000000	53.476000
Japan	Yen	0.007220	0.008462	0.452500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.403549	1.645100	87.973400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109407	0.128236	6.857500
Switzerland	Franc	0.648650	0.760283	40.656900
Canada	Dollar	0.628115	0.736214	39.369800
Singapore	Dollar	0.495022	0.580215	31.027600
Australia	Dollar	0.561740	0.658415	35.209400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.263109	2.652590	141.849900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227506	0.266660	14.259900
Brunei	Dollar	0.493589	0.578536	30.937800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020494	0.024021	1.284500
UAE	Dirham	0.232287	0.272264	14.559600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.172100	62.679200
Argentina	Peso	0.303619	0.355872	19.030600
Brazil	Real	0.298311	0.349650	18.697900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134839	0.158045	8.451600
India	Rupee	0.018242	0.021381	1.143400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224548	0.263193	14.074500
Mexico	New Peso	0.080095	0.093879	5.020300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.490497	0.574911	30.743900
Norway	Kroner	0.122222	0.143256	7.660800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014825	0.017376	0.929200
South Africa	Rand	0.107520	0.126024	6.739300
Korea	Won	0.000714	0.000837	0.044800
Sweden	Kroner	0.109625	0.128492	6.871200
Syria	Pound	0.020314	0.023810	1.273300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024672	0.028918	1.546400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000535	0.000627	0.033500

Bangko Sentral sees reserves dipping to $14B in end-2003

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is bracing for a decline in its gross international reserves (GIR) to $14 billion this year from $16.04 billion posted as of end-May due to projected outflows from maturing government debts.

This will be at the lower end of the $14-$15 billion range programmed by the BSP for the full year.

"There is greater outflow than inflow. We are paying dollar currency loans and we are not compensating it with exports, foreign direct investments and portfolio investments," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview yesterday.

The GIR refers to the BSP's total foreign currency holdings, gold reserves and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

"There is not enough (foreign exchange likely) to come in that's why we're saying it could go down to $14 billion," he said.

Despite the projected decline in the GIR, however, Buenaventura said the BSP would not embark on its own foreign borrowing binge if only to shore up the reserves.

"The (BSP) will only borrow when the GIR reaches a level that is dangerous, but right now, even at $14 billion, our forecast is still within the four-month (import requirement) cover and a one-month cover for maturing obligations," Buenaventura said.

"There is no sense for us to borrow because that will be costing the (BSP) money for something that is not really needed," he stressed.

Buenaventura said that if the national government would resort to borrowings to fund its budget shortfall this year, it would be better to source it offshore than crowd out domestic borrowers.

"If they rely more on pesos, not dollars, and you are going to borrow the same amount, then the impact of that is you will be competing with the peso side of borrowing and will simply push up interest rates," Buenaventura said.

"If they borrow dollars from us, you are lessening the supply in the market," he noted.

This would not be a concern, Buenaventura said, if there were abundant inflow from exports, remittances and foreign direct investments.

This was the same reason, he said, why the country would likely incur a balance-of-payment deficit of more than $1 billion this year compared to the original expectation of a surplus of $100-$200 million.

"If they change it like they were saying, there will be another $900 million in outflow," he said.

The $900 million represents the remaining amount that the government has programmed to borrow to fill up its budgetary requirements this year.

The government earlier said it would source the $900 million through foreign borrowings but recently said it might instead tap the local debt market.

Meanwhile, the decline in the BSP's GIR to $16.04 billion as of end-May from $16.21 billion in April was mainly due to the repayment of maturing debts by the national government and the BSP.

SEC OKs bid to declare Swift as property dividend

FOOD and beverage giant RFM Corp. completed another step in its transformation to a branded food business with the recent approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the upstreaming of Swift Foods Inc. (SFI) as a property dividend to RFM's shareholders.

This means SFI, one of the country's dominant chicken producers, is no longer a subsidiary of RFM, but owned directly by its shareholders as a separate, publicly listed corporation.

A total of 774.08 million common shares of SFI, previously owned by RFM and representing 96.44 percent of the poultry company, are now being distributed to shareholders at the approximate ratio of one SFI common share for every two RFM common shares held.

The declaration of SFI as a property dividend was approved by the RFM board earlier this year, and subsequently approved in a special shareholders' meeting in March.

In explaining the move, executive vice president Felicisimo Nacino Jr. said RFM needed to focus its resources on building its branded food and beverage units in its bid to achieve or maintain market leadership in a number of highly competitive product categories.

Late last year, RFM took over the marketing, sales and distribution activities of SFI's chilled meat and canned meat business to support its working capital requirements, and to allow SFI to focus on strategies needed to reorganize and strengthen its principal business of poultry production.

SFI is currently transforming its poultry business model to a more targeted market approach and a more cost-efficient operating platform, from the existing set-up of integrated branches that it currently has nationwide.

RFM recently reported a 12-percent sales growth in its branded food business for the first quarter of 2003 compared to the same period last year.

Smart subscriber base breaches 10M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SUBSCRIBER base of cellular giant Smart Communications Inc. has breached the 10-million mark, giving parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. more leverage to reach a possible P10-billion income at the end of the year.

During yesterday's stockholders' meeting, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan underscored the success of Smart in the cellular arena with its more than 50-percent market share and continued expansion into the less penetrated provincial areas.

He noted that Smart's set-up as a purely wireless company was "almost the perfect business model," with revenue coming mostly from prepaid services, diminishing the risk of accumulating receivables from non-paying subscribers.

Cocktales

From page B3

tion because souring investor sentiment caused a decline in liquidity and trading volume on the Philippine market. Net assets of the fund had dwindled to about $25.2 million (over P1.3 billion) by end-March; over 96 percent of those assets are invested in Philippine blue chips and second-liner stocks.

Even before the March board resolution, Solarz had already sold off whatever little holdings he had with the fund, dumping 7,000 shares of the hardly traded stock at the NYSE on Feb. 18 at $2.27 per share.

The liquidation of the First Philippine Fund, like many Third World country funds that had gone south, is long overdue, according to Daniel Yu, editor of the Hong Kong-based The Asset financial magazine.

"The fund's longevity is a testament to the marketing tenacity of Lilia Clemente," said Yu. "Like Manny Pangilinan, Lilia placed her faith and funds in the Philippines."

"The Philippines, unfortunately, had failed them."

Roco Kapunan's loss

WITH the loss of the bread-and-butter San Miguel account, the Roco Kapunan law firm has been forced to go against its public pronouncements on corporate governance and rely on such diverse clients as billionaire playboy Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, a Chinoy businessman trying to seek P200 million in "damages" from a son of taipan Henry Sy, a businesswoman being sued by BPI for breaking into another client's safety deposit box, a deadbeat Chinoy hotel owner, a dead Marcos crony and a country club on the carpet with the SEC.

Now the recent departure of name partner Jose Buñag and associate Catherine Uy is beginning to show its toll on the presidential aspirant's law firm in the lost-opportunities department.

Buñag, who has a reputation as a "rainmaker," is set to inaugurate his associate's law firm later this month at no less than Ayala's Tower One, against his old law firm that seems to have been stuck in a '60s-era building in Ortigas.

More than the swank financial district address, the Buñag associate has also taken in two SGV alumni as partners, tax experts Serafin Salvador Jr. and Edmund Guevarra, an ex-BIR deputy commissioner.

If you believe the legal grapevine, the start-up Buñag law firm now counts about 200 clients, accounts that could have stayed on with Roco Kapunan had Buñag's festering concern over "units" (legalese for profit-sharing) among his previous partners been satisfactorily addressed.

Heard through the grapevine

CHEF Billy King has sought shelter at the Club John Hay's Manor hotel after his Le Soufflé partners foreclosed even on his residence.

Apparently, even the Manor restaurant that King operates has been forbidden to use the "Le Soufflé" name.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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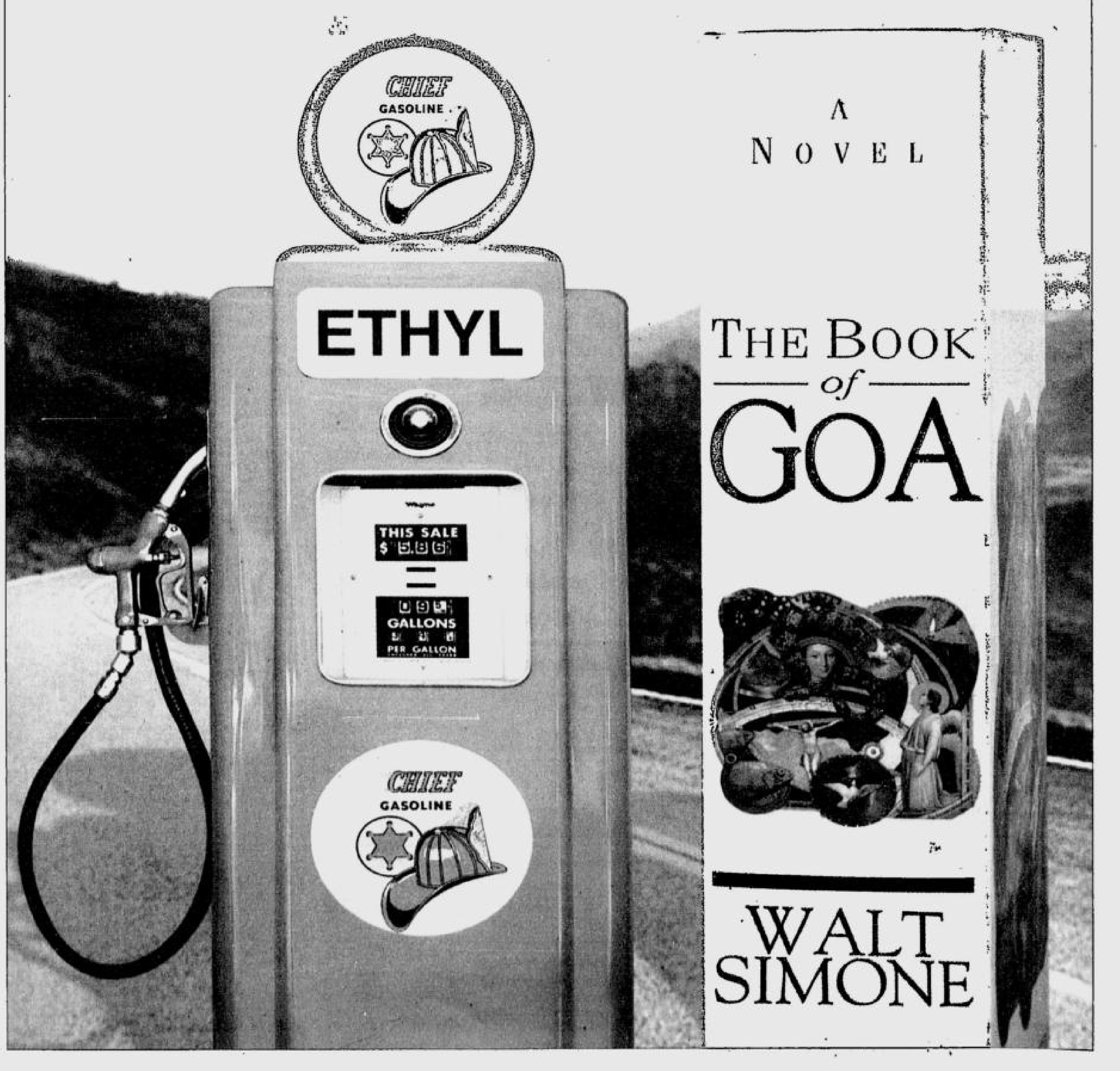

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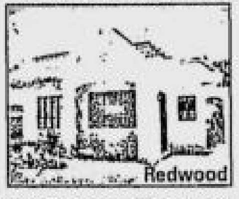
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THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that our client, ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL (COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A. of France, one of the world's leading manufacturers of optical apparatus and equipment, including spectacle glasses; sunglasses; various kinds of ophthalmic lenses; protective goggles and glasses; spectacle cases; equipment for opticians and ophthalmologists; software for remote ordering of goods and services relating to ophthalmic optics, sales promotion software; and software for professional use in the ophthalmic optics sector; is the legitimate owner and prior commercial user of its internationally famous trademarks **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** (reproduced below) which it has used and is continuously using on its said various manufactured products and articles all over the world, including here in the Philippines where it has used said trademarks for more than a decade. Representation of these trademarks are shown below:

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It has been brought to the attention of our client that some persons and entities are importing, selling, distributing, and dealing in counterfeit products which are identical or similar to our client's aforesaid products and unlawfully using its above depicted **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** trademarks. Said unauthorized use by any person or entity of these trademarks or any colourable imitation thereof constitutes infringement and unfair competition for which the parties involved may be held criminally and civilly liable.

WARNING IS THEREFORE GIVEN to any person or entity involved in the unlawful importation, sale, distribution or dealing of counterfeit products, using our client's aforesaid trademarks, and to anyone who abets, assists or cooperates in any way in said unlawful acts and practices to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from pursuing such fraudulent, unscrupulous, unlawful and illegal acts. Otherwise, we shall take all available legal actions and remedies to the fullest extent of the law to protect the rights and interest of our client.

MANUEL C. CASES, JR. & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL
(COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A.
7th Floor, Metropolitan Terraces Condominium,
Metropolitan Avenue, corner Sacred Heart St.,
1203 Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the **Preparation of Environmental Impact Study for Securing the Environmental Compliance Certificate and Permit to Operate for the existing MIAA Administration Building.**

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in conducting an initial Environmental Examination report and provide assistance to MIAA in the processing of the required Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and Permit to Operate (PO) for the MIAA Administration Building.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to express their desire to do so and submit an official letter of intent together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than June 16, 2003 at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from June 9 to 11, 2003.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA**
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI–June 5 & 11, 2003)

BCDA
BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of BLock 55 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,286 square meters

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 09 June 2003 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 19 June 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0424 or 510-0425 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–June 5, 11 & 17, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

Invitation for Rebid

Date: June 1, 2003
Loan No.: PH-P200
IFRB No.: SEDIP-2002-EQPT-JBIC

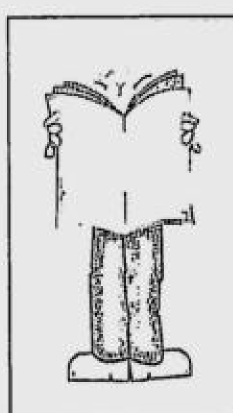
1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby announces a rebid and invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the unawarded lots of school equipment which were bid out on November 21 and 28, 2002 respectively, following the schedule below:

Equipment Package/Lot	No. of Items	Issuance of Bid Documents	Time and Date of Bid Opening
A2. Biology Equipment	18	June 6, 2003	10:00 am, July 7, 2003
C2. Home Economics Equipment	13	June 6, 2003	10:00 am, July 7, 2003

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or both lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of Bids Awards Committee (BAC), Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. II, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 loc 2019.
6. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).
7. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building 1, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City at the time and date indicated in paragraph 2 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public.
8. Prior to bid opening, a prebid conference will be held on June 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 7
9. The DepEd reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the equipment lots to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 4 & 11, 2003)



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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
& COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications invites IT companies to bid for the *Integration and Upgrading of the DOTC Network and Various I.T. Facilities and Equipment*, consisting of:
    1.1 Upgrade and/or revision of the DOTC Network, plus additional and rearranged date lines and items to the physical infrastructure as specified in the Terms of Reference.
    1.2 Purchase of two servers, one would act as a transitional server between the UNIX and Solaris/new Oracle package environments, and the other would act as a Internet Application Server portal, the details of which are specified in the Terms of Reference.
2. Bidders should have been in this business for at least 10 years.
3. Implementation of the *Integration and Upgrading of the DOTC Network and Various I.T. Facilities and Equipment* shall be completed within three (3) months after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
4. The total amount estimated for this project will be PHP 8.0 million.
5. Instructions for eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Chairman at Unit 39, 3/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue Mandaluyong City, from **12 June 2003 to 19 June 2003 up to 5:00 PM.** The following steps will be followed:
    5.1 Payment of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) as non-refundable charges at the Cashier's Office, 5/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
    5.2 Presentation of the official receipt of payment and Letter of Intent.

All required eligibility documents shall be submitted to the

Office of the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 39, 3/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue
Mandaluyong City

on or before 7 July 2003 until 5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, accept such bid considered most advantageous to the government or refrain from making any award.

(Sgd.) **RENE E. MAGLANQUE**
Assistant Secretary for Finance
And Comptrollership
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 11 & 17, 2003)

HOUSING PROJECT FOR MARANAO TRADERS
National Housing Authority (NHA) general manager Edgardo Pamintuan (2nd from left) and lawyer Jose Suarez, president of Don Pepe Henson Estate (DPHE) sign the memorandum of agreement for the development of a housing project in DPHE for 218 members of the Muslim Community Homeowners Association, Inc. (MCHOA) who are mostly Maranao traders. The project, located in Barangay Pampang, Angeles City, will be developed under the NHA's Community Mortgage Program. Also shown are (from left) Cabsaran Ibra, MCHOA president and Josefina Henson, DPHE corporate secretary.

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E-mail address: mmmh@laoag.net

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY / ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital through the Bids and Awards Committee INFRA is inviting from accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Interagency Committee for the following projects, licenses and registration.

PROJECT	PCAB/INTERAGENCY CATEGORY
PACKAGE I - Finishing of 3rd Floor SURGICAL WARD BUILDING	At least MEDIUM "A" for building
PACKAGE II - Water Proofing	At least SMALL "B" for building (Specialty on water proofing works)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:	PACKAGE I	PACKAGE II
1. Submission of Letter of Intent PCAB License and Registration (bring original copies of Contractors license) and issuance of eligibility documents	June 18, 2003 (at the Supply Office)	June 18, 2003 (at the Supply Office)
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	June 24, 2003 (at the Supply Office)	June 24, 2003 (at the Supply Office)
3. Posting of eligible contractors	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid / Tender Documents	July 4, 2003	July 4, 2003
5. Pre-bid conference	10:00 A.M. July 15, 2003 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center)	1:30 P.M. July 15, 2003 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center)
6. Submission and Opening of Bids	10:00 A.M. July 22, 2003 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center)	1:30 P.M. July 22, 2003 (at the MMM & MC Training Center)

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for Project Package I and One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)for Project Package II.

The Bids and Awards Committee INFRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government. The MMMH & MC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost of the projects will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference.

(Sgd.) **MA. LOURDES K. OTAYZA, MD., FPOGS, MHA**
Chief of Hospital III

(PDI – June 11, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD 2003-002

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	ABC
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003, 10 00 AM		
A1 1 LOT	POLE LINE HARDWARES	PLW02-0045	P 20,609,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003; 2:00 PM		
A2 1 LOT	JO SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS AND EQUIPT. FOR REPAIR OF COOLING TOWER FAN BLADES	3MAK02-000	P 1,200,000.00
A3 1 LOT	MARINE PLAYWOODS STAINLESS SCREW NAILS, HEAVY DUTY LUMBER, SPIRAL NOZZLE TARGET	3MAK03-0134	P 7,691,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 9:00 AM		
B1 1 LOT	INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE & LOCAL AREA NETWORK	MCF02-0476	P 8,300,000.00
B2 1 LOT	PLACEMENT PARTS FOR TURBINE VALVES	MCF02-0709	P 2,000,000.00
B3 2 UNITS	SUBMERSIBLE PUMP	MCF02-0756	P 1,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 2:00 PM		
B4 1 LOT	DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR	MCF02-0714	P 9,000,000.00
B5 1 LOT	MAJOR OVERHAULING OF MCFTPP UNIT 1	MCF02-0725	JY 65,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING; JULY 17, 2003; 2:00 PM		
C1 1 LOT	PARTS FOR CONDENSATE PUMP "YOSHIKURA"	2BCF02-0833	P 2,307,000.00
C2 1 LOT	PRESSURE REDUCING & SHUT OFF VALVE ASSY	2BCF02-0662	P 2,200,000.00
C3 1 LOT	IDD FLAME SCANNER DETECTOR ASSY	2BCF023-0043	P 800,000.00
	FLAME INTERNAL AMP ASSY	2BCF03-0046	P 1,700,000.00
	REGULATED POWER SUPPLY	2BCF03-0056	P 300,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 22, 2003; 2:00 PM		
C4 1 LOT	JO REHABILITATION OF BCFTPP BUNKHOUSE	2BCF02-0819	P 823,000.00
C5 1 LOT	ASSORTED WIRE ROPES	2BCF03-0105	P 1,217,000.00
C6 1 LOT	INSTALLATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (5000) PCS CONDENSER TUBE INSERTS	2BCF03-0022	P 3,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 23, 2003; 10:00 AM		
D1 4 UNITS	AIR DRYER ASSEMBLY	3BAC03-0014	P 800,000.00
D2 5 PCS	AXIAL EXPANSION JOINTS "INOFLEX" OR EQUIV	3BAC03-0069	P 5,857,425.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 23, 2003; 2:00 PM		
D3 3 PCS	TEMPERATURE SWITCHES	3BAC03-0124	P 1, 110,000.00
D4 1 LOT	TACHOMETERS, PHASE MAKERS, SENSOR MONITORS "SHINKAWA" OR EQUIV	3BAC03-0013	P 4,622,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 24, 2003; 2:00 PM		
E1 1 LOT	STUFFING BOX "EBARA"	5LGP03-0078	P 1,800,000.00
E2 1 LOT	SPARES FOR COOLING TOWER "MARLEY" 301 CLASS III	5LGP03-0063	P 6,540,000.00
E3 1 LOT	OVERSPEED PROTECTION RELAY "BENTLY NEVADA" AND CONTROL CABLE	5LGP03-0108	P 5,735,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 29, 2003; 10:00 AM		
F1 1 LOT	PARTS FOR HOT WELL PUMP "YOSHIKURA"	3TIW02-0133	P 15,957,000.00
F2 1 LOT	GAS CIRCUIT BREAKER INC'L. COMMISSIONING & TESTING	3TIW03-0003	P 15,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING JULY 29, 2003; 2:00 PM		
F3 1 LOT	REFURBISHMENT OF TGPP POWER TRANSFORMERS	3TIW02-0069	P 28,800,000.00
F4 1 LOT	UPGRADING AND ON LINE DIAGNOSTIC OF "BENTLY NEVADA" T/G SUPERVISORY INSTRUMENTS	3TIW02-0052	P 21,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

A1	-	JUNE 25, 2003; 10:00 AM	A2	-	JUNE 25, 2003, 2:00 PM
A3	-	JUNE 25, 2003; 3:00 PM	B1	-	JULY 02, 2003; 9:00 AM
B2	-	JULY 02, 2003; 10:00 AM	B4	-	JULY 02, 2003; 2:00 PM
B5	-	JULY 02, 2003; 3:00 PM	C1	-	JULY 03, 2003; 9:00 AM
C2	-	JULY 03, 2003; 10:00 AM	C3	-	JULY 03, 2003, 11:00 AM
C4	-	JULY 03, 2003; 2:00 PM	C6	-	JULY 03, 2003; 3:00 PM
D2	-	JULY 08, 2003, 10:00 AM	D4	-	JULY 08, 2003, 11:00 AM
E1	-	JULY 09, 2003; 10:00 AM	E2	-	JULY 09, 2003, 11:00 AM
F1	-	JULY 15, 2003; 10:00 AM	F2	-	JULY 15, 2003; 11:00 AM
F2	-	JULY 15, 2003; 2:00 PM	F4	-	JULY 15, 2003; 3:00 PM

Complete sets of Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9212818/9245262 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on June 09, 2003. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check Irrevocable Letter of Credit- One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee- One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond- Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - June 3 & 11, 2003)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp02.BTRP.Le-0347, Schedule II**
   Title : **Construction and Installation of 230 & 69kV Substation Equipment and Various Facilities for MakBan Substation under Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project**
   Location : **Brgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna (Luzon)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230 & 69kV MakBan Substation under the Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project. The work also includes site development and construction of a control house and warehouse.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **Ninety Million Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Six Pesos (P90,385,966.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License : AAA 'Specialty: Electrical Works'
   Registration : Large 'B' - specialty: Electrical Works
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 30, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000)** per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of **June 30, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 5, 8 & 11, 2003)

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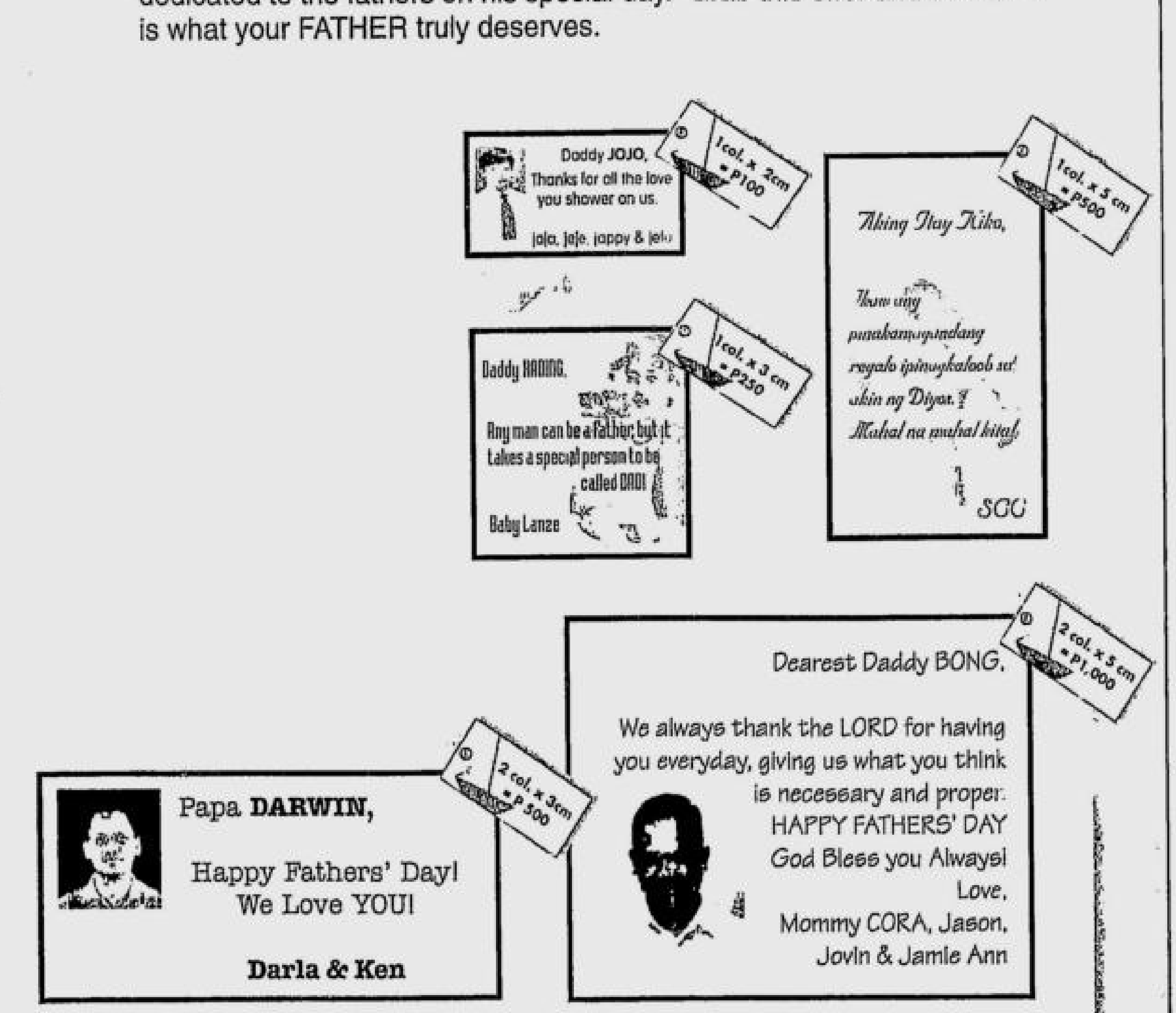

Daddy **JOJO**,
Thanks for all the love you shower on us.
jojo, jojo, jappy & jelu

Aking Itay Kiko,
Ikaw ang pinakamagandang regalo ipinagkaloob sa akin ng Diyos.
Mahal na mahal kita!
SCC

Daddy HADING,
Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be called DAD!
Baby Lanze

Dearest Daddy BONG,
We always thank the LORD for having you everyday, giving us what you think is necessary and proper.
HAPPY FATHERS' DAY
God Bless you Always!
Love,
Mommy CORA, Jason, Jovin & Jamie Ann

Papa **DARWIN,**
Happy Fathers' Day!
We Love YOU!
Darla & Ken

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11/F, Sage House, 110 Herrera Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. has approved the application of **DBS SECURITIES PHILIPPINES, INC.** for the sale of its trading right and 50,000 shares of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.

All interested parties are given 30 days from the date of this publication to make known its interests on the sale to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc., PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City: Attention: Office of the General Counsel.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Roxas Blvd.
Pasay City, 1308

INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO ACT AS AN EXTERNAL FUND MANAGER

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)** invites reputable and expert asset/fund management companies, local or foreign, to submit proposals/bids to manage a portion of the funds of the System.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for this undertaking may be obtained beginning 10 June 2003 either from the **GSIS Website at www.gsis.gov.ph** or from the office of:

REYNALDO R. NOGRALES
Vice-President
Corporate Finance Accounts Management Services
Level 3, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City
Telephone Number: 551-18-92
Telefax Number: 891-63-46

Bids/Proposals should be submitted to the office of Mr. Nograles on or before 12:00 NN of Wednesday, **18 June 2003.** No bids/proposals shall be accepted after this deadline.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect(s) or form(s) received and to accept the proposal deemed most beneficial to the System but does not guarantee that an award shall be made. The decision of the System shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager

(PDI–June 9, 10 & 11, 2003)

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"I know that my Redeemer lives and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust
And from my flesh I shall see God." (Job 19:25-26a)

In Loving Memory

On the 1st Death Anniversary of our Beloved

ATTY. JOSE NERGUA NOLLEDO

of Puerto Princesa City

who joined his Creator on June 11, 2002.

His family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered on June 11, 2003 in his memory at the following churches:

Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, *Merville, Parañaque*	6:00 AM
St. Nicolas of Tolentine Cathedral, *Cabanatuan City*	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Cathedral, *Puerto Princesa City*	6:30 AM
Manila Memorial Park Chapel, *Sucat, Parañaque City*	8:00 AM
San Miguel Arkangel Parish, *Puerto Princesa City*	5:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, *Makati City*	6:00 PM

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

CESARIO P. CALANOC, SR.

who passed away on June 11, 2002.

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

St. Mel's Church, *Woodland Hills, California*	
St. Genevieve Church, *Panorama City, California*	
San Fernando Mission, *Mission Hills, California*	
Mission of Sta. Inez, *Solvang, California*	
Lourdes Church, *Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Sta. Teresita Church, *Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
St. Jerome Emiliani, *Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:00 AM
St. James The Great Parish Church, *Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:20 AM
St. Martin de Porres Parish Church, *UHV, Parañaque City*	6:30 PM
Christ The King Parish Church, *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, *Makati City*	12:15 PM

Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Messsage of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Adelia Mata Payawal

who joined our Creator
on May 22, 2003

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered masses and prayers, gave donations, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways, in the hour of our bereavement.

The Management and Staff of

PGA Sompo Japan Insurance, Inc.

and

Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc.

condole with the family of

ALEJANDRO F. UNSON, JR.

Chairman, PGA Sompo Japan Insurance, Inc.
Deputy Chairman, Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc.

who peacefully joined our Creator on June 10, 2003.

His remains lie in state at the
Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment details will be announced later.

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ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991- 1556, 991-1557

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested and licensed suppliers of Pipes and Fittings for water supply to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO NO.	DESCRIPTION
6745	CLSP Pipes, CLAC Steel Pipes, and C.I. sleeve type Flexible Couplings for the Recodo-Tulungatung Project
6739	uPVC Pipes & Fittings, C.I. Fittings, CLSP Steel Pipes for the Distribution Line at Covarrubias-Lumbangan Project

Interested suppliers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the Records Section, 2F ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Submission of Bids : June 26, 2003
10.00 a.m., 2F ZCWD Main Office Bldg.
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
PBAC Chairman

(PDI- June 11, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
HNC-03-06-03

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 600 units of Micromotor Engines. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P6,000,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **June 9-18, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 18, 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **July 4, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - June 11, 14 & 17, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites all registered Janitorial Service Providers duly registered with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) to apply for eligibility screening and bid for janitorial and other support services requirement of PEZA.

Approved Budget Cost = PhP 3,938,171.00.

Contract period is for one (1) year.

Eligibility Screening/pre-qualification documents may be secured upon presentation of PEZA Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City from June 09 to 20, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM only. Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than 3:00 PM of 27 June 2003. All participating bidders will be informed in writing of their qualification or disqualification.

For this purpose a pre-bid conference will be held on 16 July 2003, 2:00 PM at the Social Hall, 6/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

All pre-qualified bidders shall submit their sealed bid proposals in four (4) sets – one (1) original and three (3) copies, accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total budget cost in the form of a surety bond (valid for 120 days) callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission, on or before 10:00 AM of 04 August 2003 to the BAC at the Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance & Administration 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City. The bids shall be opened at 2:00 PM on the same date. Late bidders shall not be admitted. Official time shall be the PEZA clock.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuring any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 4 & 11, 2003)

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Father's Day at the SM Supermalls

TREAT dad out to fun and surprises as the SM Supermalls celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 15.

Shop for dad at the SM Department Store or any of the mall stores and make him feel extra special.

Let dad play the professional singer while singing his favorite songs in, Sing Along with Dad, which starts from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on June 8, 9, and 10 at SM City Bacoor; June 10, 11, and 12 at SM City Fairview; June 12, 13, and 14 at SM City Bicutan; June 14, 15 and 16 at SM Supercenter Sucat; and June 17, 18, 19 at SM City Pampanga. During the activity, Astrovision will be selling Magnavision videoke products, also a perfect gift for dad. There will be special gifts for every purchase of P500.

Sports loving dads, on the other hand, can join in the fun at the SM Bowling Center as they get a surprise gift for every 4 games played.

Learn to whip up his favorite dishes in Cooking for Dad, cooking demos which will be held on June 12 at SM City Pampanga, June 13 at SM City North Edsa, June 15 at SM Megamall, June 20 at SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Manila, and on June 21 at SM City Bicutan. All cooking demos are scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. except the one at Megamall, which will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The fun continues with Dads in Style as young dads showcase the latest collections from Criterion, Ego and Hammerhead on the ramp. These fashion shows are scheduled on June 14 at SM City North Edsa, June 22 at SM City Cebu, and on June 28 at SM City Bacoor at 5:00 p.m.

Capping the festivities is a Tribute to Dad featuring celebrity dads and their kids. On Father's Day John Prats will be at SM Supercenter Sucat; Michael de Mesa and AJ Eigenmann will be at SM City Manila; Eddie K and Henry Katindig at SM Southmall; and Freddie Aguilar and daughter Maegan at SM City Sta. Mesa. On June 20, Dennis Padilla and Gary Lising will be with their kids at SM City Bacoor; while William Martinez will be with his daughter at SM City Bicutan. All shows begin at 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Father's Day at the SM Supermalls.

French soprano at The Podium

FRENCH Spring in Manila comes to The Podium as French soprano Aude Priya Wacziarg and pianist Florian Bollot perform in their first concert in the Philippines on June 12 at the mall's activity center.

Bombay born Aude Priya Waciarg has performed as a solo singer in recitals in Paris, Toulouse, Geneva, Bologna, Florence, Verona, and Monaco. She recently performed the lead role on the opera Le Fakir de Benares in New Delhi and Bombay, India.

Aude completed her lyrical studies with honors at the Conservatory in Toulouse in France and then went on to train at the prestigious Bernstein School of Musical Theater in Bologna, Italy. Interestingly enough, her talents are not confined to music, but also to the sciences. She graduated with the highest honors from the University of Paris with a Masters Degree in Mathematics and Ancient Science, as well as the classics.

Her lyrical concerts in France have included those as theatre soprano in Lauberge de Cheval Blanc and the Sait Pierre-de-Cuisines Church; zarzuela tunes with the orchestra of the Toulouse Conservatory led by the famed Marc Bleuse; as soloist Gallia of Gounod with the acclaimed Francois Verken Choir at the Saint Michel des Batignolles Church.

Aude has also performed as a soloist in operas such as Anna in Nabucco of Verdi at the La Turbie Festival; Sundra in Le Fakir de Benares in New Delhi with the Delhi Symphony Orchestra; and as a soprano in a choir composed of eight voices in Beatris de Planissolas of J. Carpenter at the National Theater in Beziers, France.

Her repertoire is rather impressive - ranging from classical to modern, its diversity due to her depth of expression, her lyrical studies, and experiences as a singer.

For her concert at The Podium, Aude will sing Schubert's Die Forelle, Obrador's El majo Celoso, Berloiz' Le Spectre de la Rose. Strauss' Zuegnung, Russie's Occi ciornie, Grieg's chanson de Solvieg, and Puccini's O mio bambino caro. Songs from Broadway and the French rock opera Starmania will also be included.

She will be performing at The Podium together with the talented pianist Florian Bollot, who has had recitals in the Ille St. Louis Theatre and Boffrand Hall in Paris; Abbaye de Royamount in Oise; Courances Castle in Seine-et-Marnes; Moulin d'Ande in Normandy; and at the Cite Internationale in Brussels, Belgium.

Aude Wacziarg and Florian Bollot in Concert, which is made possible by Smart, will be held on Thursday, June 12 at The Podium's Second Level Activity Center at 7:00 in the evening. Other sponsors include Delifrance, Cinnabon, Elbow Room, Montre, Le Lunettes de Paris, Celio, Lacoste Footwear, and Citylite 88.3.

FRENCH soprano Aude Wacziarg and pianist Florian Bollot.

AMCHAM FOUNDATION CELEBRATES LEONARD BENJAMIN DAY
The American Chamber Foundation of the Philippines (Acfpi) along with scholars and representatives from partner non-government organizations like Families and Children for Empowerment and Development (FCED), Manila Boys' Town, Bukid Kabataan, Speed the Light Center (Specs) and Kaibigan Foundation recently celebrated Leonard Benjamin's 4th death anniversary. An AmCham member for over 40 years, the late Leonard Benjamin, driven by his deep concern for others donated a portion of his wealth to fund programs for street children through the AmCham Foundation. In photo are Acfpi executive director Hilda Cleofe (third from left), trustee Sonny Ramos, president Patrick McAllister and the Don Bosco scholars.

PAYUMO UPDATES BUSH ON SUBIC BAY FREEPORT DEVELOPMENTS
U.S. President George W. Bush Jr., an alumnus of the Harvard Business School, received fellow alumnus SBMA chair Felicito Payumo and wife, Daisy at the White House. Chairman Payumo, a member of the delegation that accompanied President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her recent state visit, updated President Bush of the developments in the Subic Bay Freeport, a former U.S. Naval Base, but which is now home to a number of U.S. companies led by courier Federal Express.

SEACHAMP INTERNATIONAL AT GULFOOD 2003
Seachamp International, makers of ready-to-cook gourmet seafood and soups, represented the Philippines in the recently concluded Gulfood 2003 in the United Arab Emirates. Seachamp was one of 9 Filipino food companies that consisted the Philippine delegation to the four-day show at the Dubai International Exhibition Center. Seachamp has the distinction of being the only Filipino company that has successfully penetrated the mainstream supermarkets in Dubai and the UAE. Seachamp products occupy main shelf displays in the top supermarkets in the UAE, such as the Carrefour chain. The Philippine participation was organized by the Center of Trade Expositions and Missions under the Department of Trade and Industry. Shown are (from left) Seachamp International president Reynaldo Sy, Seyed Mashook and SK Ghajendren of Hopewell Trading LLC, and Anna Marie Sy, Seachamp International's VP for operations.

EMPLOYERS
IN ASIA

FEDEX AMONG RP'S TOP EMPLOYERS
FedEx Express has been honored as one of the best employers in the Philippines. FedEx was named 10th among a list of distinguished companies in the Philippines at the Best Employers in Asia Awards held recently, organized by Hewitt Associates and Dow Jones. It was the first for FedEx in the Philippines. The Best Employers in Asia Awards is the result of a nationwide survey of employees and examined people management practices in many of the region's leading organizations, including FedEx. Shown are FedEx executives accepting the award: (from left) John W. Allison, VP planning, engineering and support, Apac, Maribet Espinosa, senior manager, FedEx Asia Pacific hub operations, Jocelyn Everjuan-Baclor, HR services manager, and Samuel S. David, country manager.

Cebu, Davao Palm users groups meet, update

ON SEPARATE occasions, the Palm Users Society of Cebu and the Palm Users Group at Davao, in cooperation with Microwarehouse Inc. recently held a membership meeting to assist Palm users in maximizing the use of their handhelds through product presentations and updates and keep members abreast of the latest developments concerning Palm.

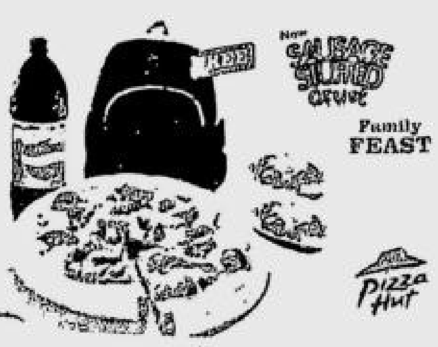
Architect Philip Lim of the Palm User Core Group delivered a Zire, m515 and Tungsten presentation during the meeting. Lim revealed the many innovative features of the Palm Tungsten T, such as the personal information management (PIM) software including date book, address, to-do list and memo pad, infrared beaming capabilities, expense management software, calculator, note-taking applications and games.

On the other hand, the slim and savvy m515 is perfect for those who want stunning graphics. It features a bright color screen that supports over 65,000 colors, which comes in handy when rehearsing for a PowerPoint presentation or for showing off digital videos.

The meeting also included a Palm raffle, wherein CDs, a Palm mouse pad and Palm stickers were presented to lucky guests. "Beaming sessions" and distribution of giveaways capped the night off.

ProductFILES

Pizza Hut's back-to-school treat



WITH summer nearly over and school is about to start, Pizza Hut, the world's number 1 pizza restaurant is offering a special back-to-school treat. Get to start the school year right by getting a free backpack with every Family Supreme Sausage Stuffed Crust Pizza meal for just P499. Great savings at P175. While known to be legendary in coming up with new breed of pizzas and flavors, Pizza Hut has time and again redefined what the true pizza experience should be. The newest Sausage Stuffed Crust Pizza has been deemed as the absolute meat indulgence and has managed to capture the discriminating tastes of pizza lovers everywhere. Mouth watering with its 3-foot long juicy sausage and golden brown crust with a choice of toppings, pizza enthusiasts are guaranteed a mouthful of meat with every bite. Pizza Hut's special back to school treat is guaranteed to keep you coming back for more. Promo is good until June 16.

'Crazy' with Diners Club

YOU HAVE until June 14 to throw all your budgetary caution to the wind by going crazy over Diners Club's exciting value-laden Deferred Payment Plan (DPP) available at the Glorietta Activity Center. Cardholders with active and current Diners Club Cards may convert their purchases to installment via the DPP. Swing by the Diners Club booth at the Glorietta Activity Center during the promo period or fax back the availment form distributed at the booth and inserted in your next Statement of Account to 840-2463 or 819-7385. Here's more: you get precious perks, including a free Time Zone Game Pass, valid until Aug. 15 for every single or accumulated P5,000 Diners Club charge slip(s) you present at the booth. You also earn double Club Rewards points when you convert your purchases made within the promo period to DPP. You have a wide range of payment-period options: 3, 6, 9 or 12 monthly installments at only 1.4 percent interest a month.

Blims exhibit

IN LINE with its 25th anniversary celebration, Blims, one of the country's leaders and trendsetters in the furniture industry, announces its series of activities for 2003. The first is the Italian Leather Collection ongoing until June 14 at the Glorietta 1, Ayala Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City. Dubbed as "Skin is In", the two-week exhibit will showcase a collection of the best Italian leather brands from around the world. 12 vignettes will be included, namely "Radiant", a living room for the newly weds; "Lucent", a sitting room for the high-profile career woman; "Fresh", a bachelor's den; "Tough", a living area for the rugged male; "Dusky", a home office for the high-profile young male; "Flushed", a condo set-up for the cosmo girl; "Flawless", a living-cum-dining area for the sophisticated bachelor; "Mulatto", a visitors/entertainment area for the family; "Raw", a living room for men; "Delicate", another living area for the single, pristine woman; and "Chameleon", a townhouse entertainment area. Two more exhibits will be held in October and December this year.

11th Naliyagan Festival

ON JUNE 12 to 17, the Province of Agusan del Sur commemorates its 36th Founding Anniversary with the 11th Naliyagan Festival. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor. The festival aims to highlight the culture if the province; showcase the development thrusts and achievements and the strong partnerships forged with local and foreign institutions; launching of the Naliyagan Trade Expo and Entertainment Center (Intec) and; encourage replication of our best practices in local governance. For inquiries, call Ferdinand Perez, coordinator, at tel. nos. (085) 242-3801; (085)343-7449, telefax (085)343-7369.

Biz Clips

Independence Day celebration traffic advisory

DURING the Independence day celebration, military and civic parade, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Roxas Blvd.-Bonifacio Drive, from Pres. Quirino Ave. to Anda Circle is closed to traffic. From Delpan Bridge to Baclaran, all vehicles shall take Anda Circle, Aduana Drive, right turn at Gen. Luna St., left turn at P. Burgos, right turn at Taft Ave., to destination, or from Taft Ave., right turn at Padre Faura, left turn at M.H. Del Pilar to destination or from Delpan bridge to South Superhighway, take Anda Circle, Aduana Drive, right turn to Gen. Luna St., left turn to P. Burgos, Ayala Blvd., right turn to San Marcelino St., to destination. From Baclaran to Anda Circle, all vehicles shall take a right turn at Pres. Quirino Ave., left turn at Taft Ave. to destination. Or from Baclaran to Anda Circle, all vehicles shall take a right turn at Pres. Quirino, left turn at Mabini St. Right turn at U.N. Ave., left turn at Taft Ave., to destination.

PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'How does one get into a career in development economics?'

ASK YOUR CEO

By Gary B. Teves

DEAR People at Work: Hi! Kudos to your great section! I enjoy reading your articles, especially every Sunday. You have a lot of helpful articles like how to cope with different types of coworkers, career development, and most especially the section on the Sunday's gospel. There really is a need for people to see that God and loving God through others should be applied in our daily work. Great job!

I read about Gary Teves in "Taking the path least traveled led CEO to success." As such, I have a career question, which I'd like to get advice on. I'm a Management Engineering graduate from Ateneo de Manila. I've been working for a multinational IT consulting firm for the past two years. My work is demanding but I enjoy my onshore stint working directly with the clients. However, I want to do something that is more socially oriented.

I'd like to get into development economics. However, I'm unsure on what is a good first job to get into for this field. Could you give suggestions? I'd really like to start off on a good beginning when I switch careers. Or would it be more advisable to get a Masters in Economics/ MBA first so I could have more knowledge on the field? (I am aware however that a Masters would require work experience in a particular field first).

Thanks in advance for any input you may give! More power to People at Work!

Pursuing higher education in development economics will give you a better appreciation of the "big picture," helping you to understand the various causes and effects of poverty. Development economics uses economic theory to analyze the special institutional structures that characterize most developing countries. While this increased understanding is important, working in the field provides a different but equally valuable learning experience. On-the-job experience not only provides an edge when applying to graduate school but also adds value to the academic experience itself.

Career paths

Although there are few formal career paths in the field of development economics, working in government organizations, before or even during graduate school will give you the experience you need. Some examples that come to mind are government agencies such as the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the country's independent economic development and planning agency, or the Department of Agriculture (DA), which is responsible for promoting the nation's agricultural development growth. Non-government organizations (NGOs) and donor groups can also provide valuable career opportunities in the area of development economics. The Ford Foundation's Galing Pook program, for example, acts as a resource institution for local government units (LGUs) on local governance innovations and best practices.

Your area of expertise, information technology (IT), is particularly valuable since the trend in governance work today is to use IT to improve the delivery of social services. There are, however, accompanying issues that need to be addressed, such as manpower absorption and the ability of workers to adapt to the new technology. Your contributions in this area would be very valuable to many governance agencies that are currently facing these challenges.

Web sites

When job-hunting, check the web sites for government agencies and donor companies, as well as those for institutions such as the World Bank (WB), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Aside from learning about potential career opportunities, these web sites will give you more information about the groups' objectives, issues and methods, and will help you focus on the kind of work you want to do. Also, check the classified ads on a regular basis; most organizations routinely run advertisements to fill their employment needs.

In addition to this, look into the many opportunities to pursue higher learning. The University of the Philippines and your own alma mater, the Ateneo de Manila offer programs in development economics and governance respectively. After gaining some work experience and being able to accurately assess your workload, you can then decide whether to pursue higher learning after a few years, or even while you're still working.

I commend you on your decision, and hope you find socially oriented work as rewarding and fulfilling as I do. Best of luck with your education and career endeavors!

(Do you want to learn from Gary Teves' experiences? If you want him to be your career mentor, send your letters to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *He will answer your letters through the column.)*

CEO mentor Teves

How do you deal with the gatekeeper between you and who you need to meet?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've been trying to arrange a meeting with a department head for weeks, but her secretary refuses to help. I can't go to my boss, because I don't want him to see me as someone who can't get the job done. Is there a way that I can get around a secretary who only says no?

Stuck With A
Spiteful Secretary

You may think of gatekeepers as a concrete wall, but to an old friend of mine, Dr. Richard Steckel, they're like butter-and his words are a warm knife. Through years of pursuing businesses to invest in the nonprofit he ran, Steckel refined the art of getting past even the most spiteful secretary through a series of hard to forget messages. My favorites: "Tell him this is Dr. Steckel. His test results are in." "Please ask her to call; we can't remember which paint color to use on her car." And, "It's about the I.Q. test results." Sure sometimes people get annoyed, but they always call back.

Now, while Dr. Steckel has a great phone-side manner, his lines would be hard for most of us to pull off. (No Ph.D., and nowhere near enough chutzpah!) So for a more practical approach, I've adapted some tips from "The Power to Get In" by Michael Boylan (St. Martin's Press, 1997).

Getting in

Can you make the gatekeeper your ally? While the person who's being protected is your target, the gatekeeper can be a tremendous ally in getting your message through. He not only controls access, but often, how your message will be presented. You want him on your side. So stop thinking of him as an enemy, and start making him your friend.

Can you treat the gatekeeper like a peer? The best way to make him your ally is to treat him with respect. Don't fast talk, don't talk down and don't waste his time. Treat him the way you'd like to be treated if you were in his shoes.

Other ways

Can you arm the gatekeeper without overwhelming him? Since he's going to be presenting your message to his boss, give him the pitch the way you want it presented. One page max. Major points bulleted. Name and number to call for more information. You want him reading your script-not rummaging through pages of material to create one of his own.

Can you find someone else in the company who can talk to your "target"? If the above strategies don't work, find someone who has that person's ear and see if they can pave your way.

Of course, there are other options—calling before 8 or after 5:30 and email—and I've used them too, but gatekeepers can provide valuable insight that you can't get anywhere else for relatively small amount of time. And it's a lot cheaper than going back to get a Ph.D.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hille 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning WorkingWounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com*)*

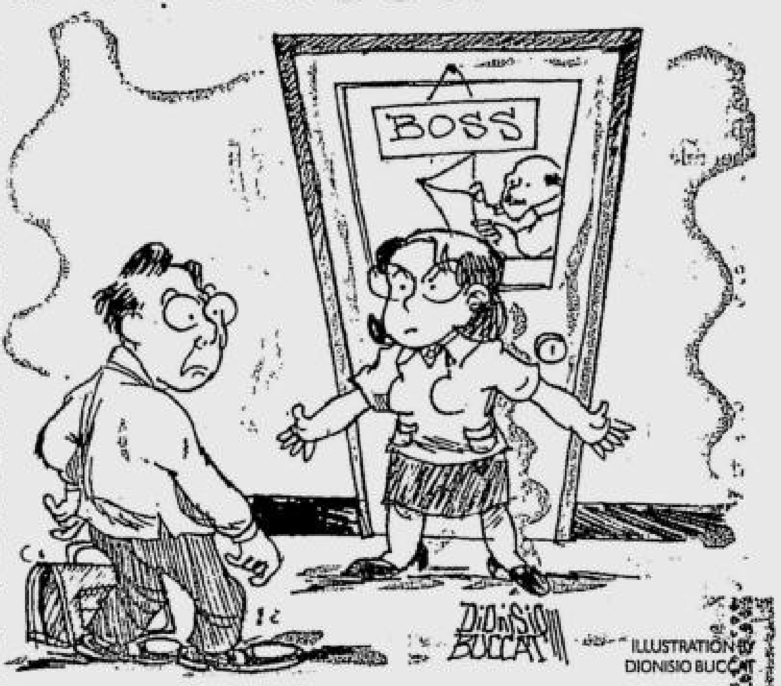


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES

People at work learn from career experts, CEOs

ABOUT 300 people braved the typhoon to attend the special People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Career Development Strategies last May 27, 28, and 29. As the rains poured relentlessly in an unusually quiet Makati business district where most offices suspended work, career experts from Career Systems, Inc. and topnotch CEOs from prestigious companies shared their expertise and experiences on the three topics for the series, "Managing your career to the top," "Keeping high flyers in the company," and "Developing the world class Pinoy." For both participants and speakers, their presence in the seminar series under unusually trying circumstances demonstrated their commitment to career development.

On the first day of the series, in a candid discussion on how they got to the top, Emily Abrera, Chair of McCann Erikson, Nieves Confesor, Dean of the Asian Institute of Management, Gary Teves, president of Land Bank of the Philippines and Carlos Ejercito, president of United Laboratories, shared anecdotes in their lives as they went up the corporate ladder. Preceeding this CEO discussion was a lecture on career management by Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems Inc.

Cynthia Mamon, president of Sun Microsystems, Dr. Abraham Pascual, chairman of Pascual Laboratories, and Jose Cuisia Jr. president of Philam Life and General Insurance Company shared their companies' programs on talent retention on the second day. Gerri Baricaua, senior consultant of Career Systems, Inc. gave a lecture on talent retention management before the CEO discussion.

On the last day, Joaquin Quintos IV, president of IBM Philippines, Sandy Prieto Romualdez, president of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Atty. Felipe Gozon, Chair of GMA Network Inc. identified the competencies that can help Filipinos become a world class workforce. Jorge Santamaria, managing director of Career Systems, Inc., gave a talk on this topic before the CEO discussion.

This event was presented by Philippine Daily Inquirer and Career Systems, Inc. and organized by Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc.

Companies who helped bring this event to the public are Equitable PCI Bank, Micro Data Systems and Management Inc., ABS-CBN Publishing Inc./ Metro Working Mom, Blue Collar Magazine, Power Books, McGraw Hill Education, Land Bank of the Philippines, Super Ferry, Philam Life and General Insurance Company, McDonald's Philippines and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company/ Expresso.

REGINA Reyes, PaW editor, and Donald Lim, Inquirer AVP for Marketing present a token of appreciation to Desi Urbi, Josie Santamaria, Josie Santamaria and Myra Lapus of Career Systems, Inc. PHOTOS BY ERWIN PANALIGAN

THE MEN and women of Philam Life & General Insurance, Co.

Career consulting company offers career development seminars

DO you have the right people in your organization? If you do have, what do you do to retain these right people? And what do you do to ensure that the people retained continue to be motivated and productive as they build their careers in your organization?

Globalization has not only resulted in stiff competition for products, goods and services but also competition among organizations to attract and retain the right people because they are an organization's competitive edge.

Career Systems, Inc. invites everyone to attend and participate in the Career Development Program Series for 2003. On July 23 and 24, there will be a two-day session on "Career Development in Organizations: An Overview." On August 26 and 27, a "Career Planning Workshop" will be held. "Career Counseling and Coaching Skillshop" will be the focus on a three-day session from September 22 to 24. On October 29 and 30, the topic will be "Career Pathing and Succession Development." On November 24 and 25, the topic is "Mentoring High Potentials."

The Career Development Program, as a component of organizational strategy, will help the organization attract, develop and retain the right people. It will optimize the fit between employee goals and aspirations and organizational goals and vision. It will prepare the employees to become more resilient and responsive to organizational changes. It will improve employees' satisfaction and organizational productivity by enabling them to move into jobs where they can best contribute their talents and skills. It will ensure the organization's stability to support growth and expansion.

For more information, call 817-0110, fax at 813-4056 or email carsys@qinet.net, and look for Cora or Vanessa Montes. You can also visit careersystems.com.ph.

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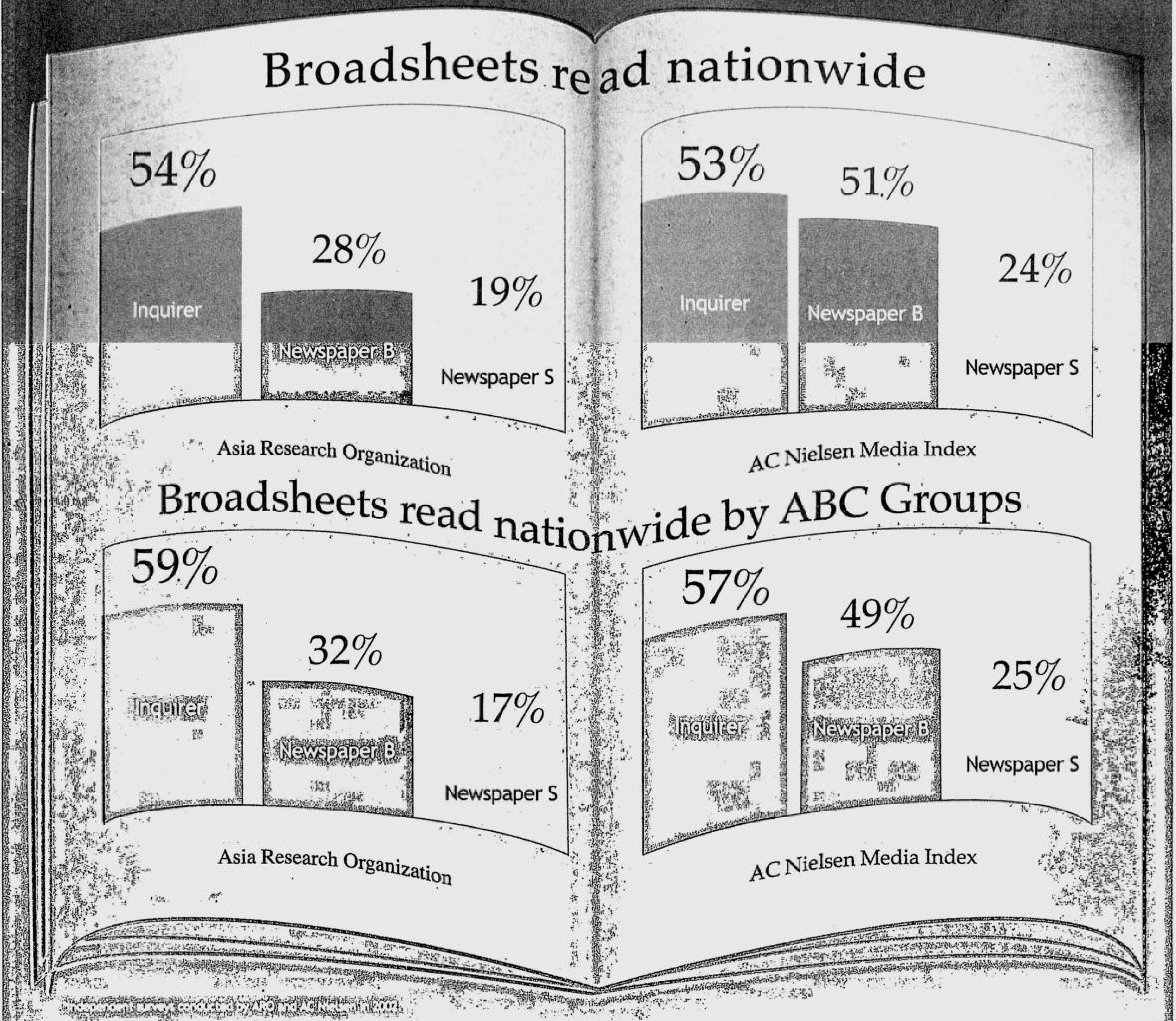

*Independent survey conducted by ARO and AC Nielsen in 2002

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2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA	4 OPERATION BALIKATAN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DARKNESS FALLS 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	4 SANIB
	5 SANIB		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	5 DARKNESS FALLS
	6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA			
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5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 VERTUD NG PUTIK

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4 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

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6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 (DTS) SANIB
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9 (DOLBY) OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
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2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 (SDDS) SANIB
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY) VERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS) SANIB
8 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9

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5 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Ortigas
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2 SANIB
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
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2 VERTUD NG PUTIK
3 SANIB
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN

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3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
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5 SANIB

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1
2

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2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

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2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SANIB
4 (SDDS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 SANIB
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 SANIB
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DOLBY) SANIB
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3 (DTS) SANIB
4 VERTUD NG PUTIK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE MATRIX
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 ANG TANGING INA
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4 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Magic Star Cinema
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2 (DTS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

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1 (SDDS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
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4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

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4 VERTUD NG PUTIK
5 SANIB

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 VERTUD NG PUTIK

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 VERTUD NG PUTIK
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SANIB
2 TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 VERTUD NG PUTIK
2 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SANIB
2 VERTUD NG PUTIK
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Jade Cinema
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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS-ES) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 SANIB

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
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2 SANIB
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5 OPERATION BALIKATAN
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 SANIB
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK
6 OPERATION BALIKATAN
7 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 OPERATION BALIKATAN
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
5 SANIB
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 THE MATRIX RELOADED
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10 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
11 BERTUD NG PUTIK
12 AGENT CODY BANKS

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5239240
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2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 ALAB NG LAHI
8 SANIB
9 OPERATION BALIKATAN
10 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11 BERTUD NG PUTIK
12 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA

SM MEGAMALL
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2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 THE 8TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 ALAB NG LAHI
9 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
10 SANIB
11 OPERATION BALIKATAN
12 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 SANIB
5 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888
1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN
8 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
9 BERTUD NG PUTIK
10 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CEBU
2313878
1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 SANIB
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
8 DARKNESS FALLS

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3209422
1 DARKNESS FALLS
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3 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SANIB

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
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4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA

SM CITY DAVAO
2978098
1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN

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1 SO CLOSE
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

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6 HULING BIRHEN
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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2 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
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6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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2 HULING BIRHEN
3 BALIKATAN
4 SANIB
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 ALAB NG LAHI

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3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 BALIKATAN
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA

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3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
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5 WHAT A GIRL WANT
6 DAYO

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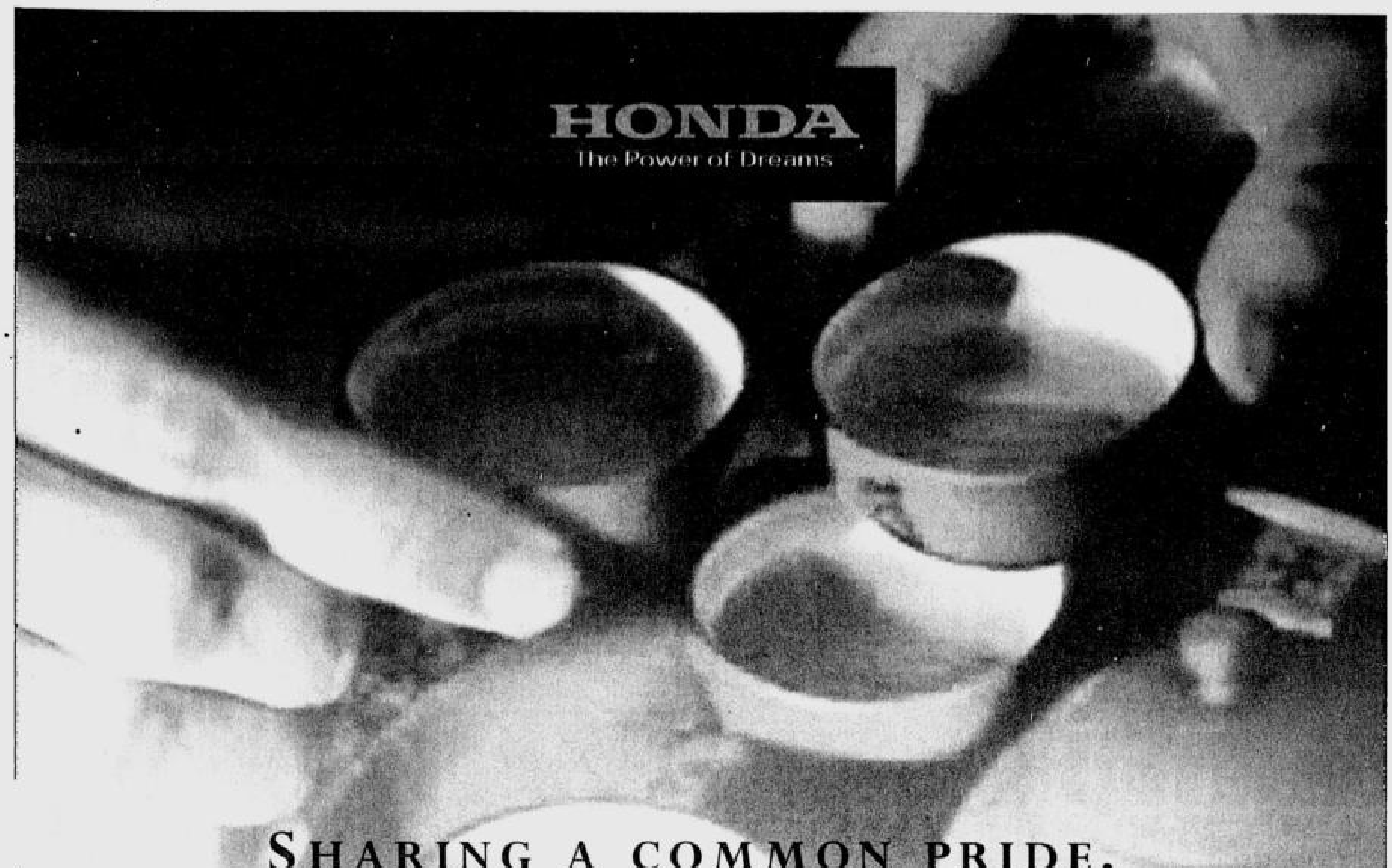

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with us into a future that was unfolding.

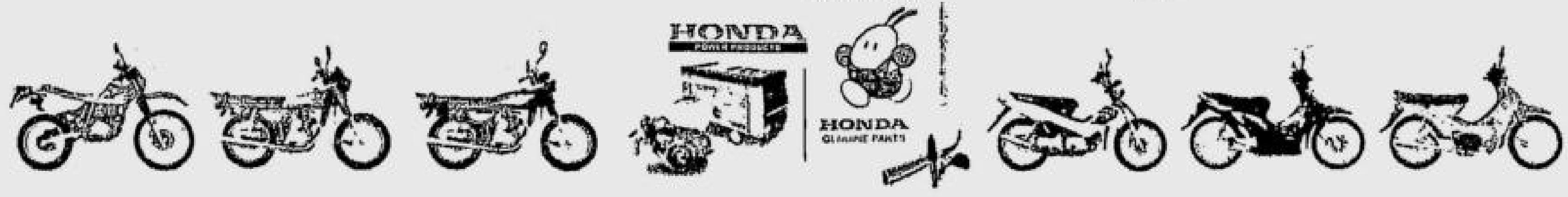
A lot of dreams have been fulfilled.
Dreams of making the world a better place through
advanced technology, dreams of improving the quality
of human life through efficient, economical and
environment-friendly machines.

We warmly thank *the suppliers* who have collaborated
with us in our enterprise, *the dealers* who have
distributed our products, and most of all *the customers*
who believed in us and in what we make.
We are glad we have lived with you.

Thank you for empowering our dreams.

Partnership with Honda:
a luster that lasts!

Honda Philippines, Inc.
30th
ANNIVERSARY • JUNE 2003



Honda celebrates 30 in RP

HONDA Philippines, Inc. (HPI) is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Three decades of growth and innovation have gone by for the well-respected company, and it is grateful to celebrate. Known in the Philippines as a maker of high-quality motorcycles, Honda Philippines has come a long way from its origins as Mariwasa-Honda Inc. the fruit of a joint venture agreement between Mariwasa-Distributors Inc. and Honda Motor Co., Ltd. The years have seen the company introducing rosters of quality motorcycles and power products that have borne the imprint of technological expertise, constant research and development and meticulous attention to quality control and customer satisfaction.

The company has been preparing for a week of festivities meant to give thanks to the people who have contributed to its success in the Philippine market. HPI is grateful to the suppliers who have contributed to its business enterprise, to the dealers who have marketed and distributed its products, and most of all, to the customers who have trusted in and relied on the quality of Honda products.

The commemorative activities began June 9. From then until June 12, free test rides of late-model Honda motorcycles will be offered to the public, along with free service checkups, at the Honda Riding Academy in Parañaque City and at Honda depots in Cebu City and Davao City. The motorcycles, the venue and the gasoline shall be compliments of HPI. All that interested parties need do will be to come and ride.

An evening of celebration will be held on June 11 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. The festivities will include an audiovisual presentation, the launching of a new motorcycle model, as well as the launching of commemorative editions of two existing motorcycles.

On June 13, a motorcade involving the members of Honda riders' clubs from Metro Manila shall wind its way to the Honda manufacturing plant in Parañaque, where the members shall enjoy Fun Day activities. Other Fun Day activities are scheduled for associations of tricycle operators and drivers on June 14. An open house shall also be held on that day, along with a Photo Contest, a Dress Up Your Bike Contest and a Skills Competition for Honda associates.

Commemorative items such as T-shirts, key chains and button pins shall be made available to the public. It is all part of HPI's way of thanking those who have allowed it to develop and grow through the years.

Following are the highlights of Honda Philippines, Inc.'s journey of growth.

1973--Mariwasa-Honda, Inc. was established in May. This began the production of completely knocked down units.

1976--The TM 110 was introduced, aimed at the tricycle market.

1977--The C70 was introduced and the XL 100K3 and the XL 125K3 were manufactured.

1979--The XL 125Z and the TM125 were launched.

1980--The XL 185SZ, the CD70 and the TM 110S entered the market. The Honda Riding Academy was established. The latter is the first and only motorcycle riding school in the Philippines.

1981--The first XL 100SD was produced, and the company introduced the TMX 155, which is meant for heavy-duty tricycle work.

1982--The Biomass Seminar was held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

1983--The company's name was changed from Mariwasa-Honda Inc. to Honda Philippines Inc. (HPI) in December. The XL 125SR was unveiled.

1984--The C70DD Econopower was launched. HPI reached a cumulative production output of more than 100,000 motorcycle units.

1985--The TM 110SR was introduced to bolster HPI's position in the solo rider market.

1986--Honda General Purpose Engines garnered No. 1 status.

1987--The company's market share attained No. 1 status for brand-new motorcycle sales. The launching of "Handog Pasasalamat" provided free service checkups for all owners of motorcycles and power products.

1988--The TMS Super 110 was introduced.

1989--The PF50 (Trendy) was launched, as was the long tail shaft assembly for bancas. HPI also exported luggage carriers and wire harness for Honda Civic and Accord cars to Japan through tie-ups with the Japanese suppliers of Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

1990--Completely built units of PF50 motorcycles were exported to Latin America and South America.

1991--Cumulative production output for Honda power products exceeded 100,000 units.

1992--HPI is honored by the visit of Nobuhiko Kawamoto, President and Chief Executive Officer of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. The company introduced assembled Gen Set models of the HPG2200/3300/5500 generators.

1993--HPI launched the New GX340 marine model. The company celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

1994--A cumulative output in excess of 200,000 motorcycle units was attained.

1995--Amb. Benjamin Sanvictores assumed the leadership of the Board, succeeding Amb. Jose S. Laurel, III.

1996--The GXMega Agri was launched. Honda power products attained a cumulative output of more than 200,000 units.

1997--The ground breaking for the Cebu City and Davao City depots was held. HPI becomes No. 1 in motorcycle sales. Cumulative output for motorcycles surpassed 300,000 units. A Micro 4-cycle engine brushcutter, the UMK 431, was introduced, as was the XLR 200 motorcycle.

1999--The 400,000 units mark in cumulative motorcycle output was exceeded.

2000--The Wave 110 motorcycle was introduced. The cumulative output for power products exceeded the 300,000 units mark.

2001--The GL 125C and GL 125HA were launched, and HPI attained the No. 1 position in motorcycle sales. Cumulative production output for motorcycles surpassed 500,000 units.

2002--The No. 1 position in motorcycle sales was maintained. The ANF 125, NF 100 and the XRM Dual Sports were launched that same year, and by this time, the 600,000 units mark for cumulative output of motorcycles had been reached.

2003--The TMX 125 was launched. By April, cumulative output for motorcycles reached about 680,000 units while cumulative output for power products reached about 370,000 units. Honda Philippines Inc. celebrates its 30th anniversary.

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Back-to-school issue *part 2*

This week we've got essentials to help you get into the studying groove—resolutions for the new schoolyear, a dorm life survival guide, movies to watch before hitting the books and tips on dealing with difficult professors.

Dionisio Buccat

We've also thrown in features on stellar soap Meteor Garden, Avon's Teen Advisory Council, new Freeway model G Tongi and hot band Evanescence to keep you from getting bored to tears, on or off campus

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Quality is a detail we take very seriously.
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In surpassing previous standards of quality, design and durability, we are now the leader in just five years!

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Born with a passion for ceramics, HCG founder, Hocheng Chiu of Taiwan learned to sculpt before he could write. Trained in traditional handcrafting methods, he was both artist and scientist, redefining the aesthetics of vessel design even as he pioneered breakthrough techniques for ceramic manufacture.

In 1931, HCG opened its doors with a vision for a future driven by never-ending innovation and the pursuit of excellence. For more than seventy years, since its inception, HCG has exemplified its founder's deep passion for artistry and fine detail. It has indoctrinated the mission of its founder to continuously innovate the Hi-tech production process, to design Compact bathroom fixtures that compliment stylish bathrooms, and to achieve Globalization by serving people closely and promptly.

In order to serve valuable customers closely, HCG-Philippines was formed in 1995 between HCG-Taiwan and Filipino-owned giant developer, Filinvest Corporation. This partnership invested 45 million US dollars to put up the largest manufacturing plant of bathroom fixtures in the Philippines located on a ten-hectare property at the First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE) in Dasmarinas, Cavite with a rated plant capacity of 840,000 pieces annually.

Today's HCG, a world leader in kitchen and bathroom fixtures, continues to uphold the belief that vision is the key to success. With innovation, products blend science and style to captivate each generation anew. For seven decades, HCG has been pioneering the development of fine porcelain, setting tomorrow's standards today. Long before other manufacturers thought to explore one-piece water closets, HCG was perfecting the designs. While others were scrambling to meet quality certifications, HCG was already achieving them. Time after time, HCG's groundbreaking visions have become realities. HCG is charged not only with meeting current trends, but also with anticipating and shaping the future.

5 years Beyond standards.

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY

Every HCG product goes through a regimen of no fewer than dozen different performance tests before they are launched to the general public. Every valve, fitting and coupling has been customized for precision fit and optimum performance. Trapways are 100% glazed for efficiency unrivaled within the industry. In addition, HCG fixtures feature sophisticated Super Siphonic Technology, a revolutionary trapway and hydraulic design that quietly and efficiently clears wastes with powerful siphonic force. Precise bathroom fittings to ensure peerless durability is something HCG takes seriously. The impressive Fluidmaster installed in water closet tanks secures over a million leak-free flushes.

Quality is a detail HCG takes seriously; it is more than a concept. Quality is a commitment to staying true to an ideal. For excellence in design and technology, HCG has received the prestigious Philippine Standard (PS), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and Korean Standard (KS) Certifications. HCG products and processes have been awarded impressive ISO Certificates in 9001:2000.

ANSI American National Standards Institute

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL

ISO 9001:2000

HCG designers and technicians spend more time on the parts you can't see than on the parts you can so that you never have to see them. Our company ensures that beneath their refined aesthetic forms, HCG products feature comfort, taut power, and efficiency.

CONTINUOUS INNOVATION

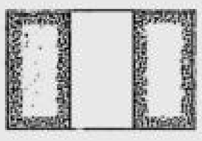
HCG started with the highest quality clay, feldspar and flint available then made them better. That was only the beginning. Years of research and the impressive performance of HCG's 102-meter long kiln result to glaze microstructure making kiln-fired porcelain create the industry's smoothest, glossiest finish, for exceptional cleanliness and glorious appearance.

InnoGlaze
anti-dirt & anti-bacteria

HCG is one of the first manufacturers to adopt the NANO-SIZE FORMULATED GLAZE APPLICATION. With HCG's proprietary INNOGLAZE, a benign technology to inhibit the growth of harmful bacteria, you and your family are protected from most types of dirt. The incorporation of antibacterial and antimicrobial technology into products is not merely desirable, but absolutely essential.

DESIGN

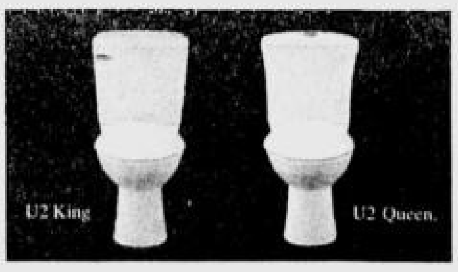
The HCG design vocabulary is centered on a sophisticated humanism, the ideal that every product should be created for the people who will use it. From conceptualization to final packaging, HCG products are designed according to human desire and human interaction.



In 1997, Italian Nilo Gioacchini became HCG's instrumental designer. With twenty years of award-winning bathroom fixture design under his belt, Gioacchini translated his extraordinary devotion to detail and celebration of artistic expression into the fluid lines of Legato Series. An integral component of the HCG Industrial Design Team, he has developed some of the most contemporary, enduring products of the day. U2 King and Queen, the Series inspired by the beauty of the human form is now being introduced to the market. With the U2 Fluidmater Tank Fitting, we guarantee over a million leak-free flushes, Because U2 understands your need for lifetime dependability.

Fluidmaster

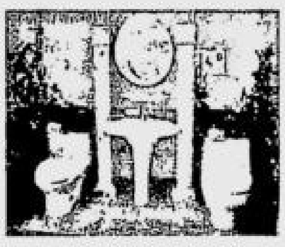
U2



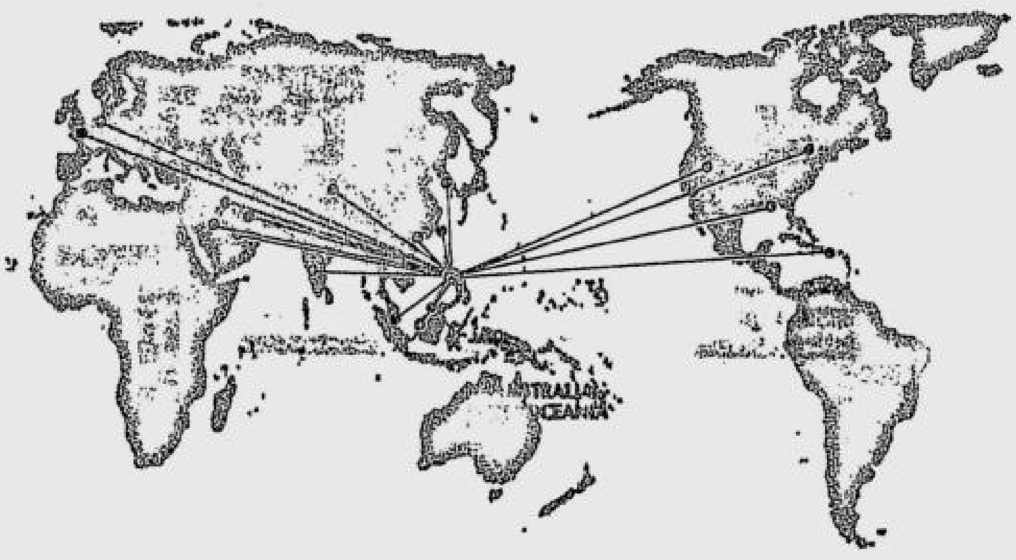
WORLD-CLASS PERFORMACE

LEGEND

We are as proud of our state-of- the-art production facilities as we are of our dedicated employees steadily searching consummated offerings and services to customers. In fact, the HCG plant in Dasmarinas, Cavite is the most productive sanitary ware plant in the country with the most number of employees. In the next few years, HCG-Philippines aims to generate additional jobs for more Filipinos.



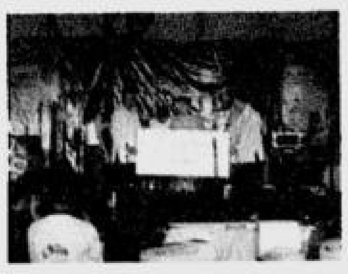
The reliable craftsmanship of HCG's diligent employees is instrumental to the tremendous increase in domestic and export sales output. On the one hand, domestic sales of P60Million during HCG's first full year of operations vaulted almost six times at P360 million through to end of 2002. On the other hand, HCG's export sales registered an average of 24% annual growth. Total exports of HCG-Philippines amounted to P1.1billion as of end of 2002. Today, HCG products manufactured in the Philippines are very well accepted in 20 countries worldwide.



HCG exports to 20 countries

HCG and SOCIETY

Giving back to society is the worldless declaration of our deepest gratitude. The accomplishments of HCG in five years were inspired by the philosophy that the company's efforts would make a valuable change in the lives of many people.



In 1999, HCG took part in the advocacy program of the Jimmy Carter Habitat for Humanity. Recently, HCG donated sanitary wares to Humayao Elementary School and Langkaan Elementary School, both located in Dasmarinas, Cavite. In addition, sponsoring sanitary wares for the BANTAY BATA's CHILDREN'S VILLAGE PROJECT in Bulacan provides HCG employees a sense of fulfillment without equal. These sorts of endeavors are something very important to all of us. They are our source of happiness and inspiration to continue improving our operations.

As technological innovation inspire the minds of our product development team, the deep humanism of the entire company's vision comes from its passionate devotion to promote the importance of hygiene to as many people as possible.

Bathroom Beautiful HCG

25 resolutions for the new school year

By Melissa Telan and Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondents

SINCE it's time to troop back to the classrooms again, 2bU! has come up with 25 new school-year resolutions to help you make the most out of school year 2003-2004.

1. Participate in extracurricular activities. Clubs and organizations are great for indulging your interests and honing your talents and skills, as well as meeting new people. (They also earn brownie points in resumés and job applications).

2. Take a class you've always been interested in. If Indian philosophy fascinates you, sign up for the course. Never mind if none of your friends are in the class, or the teacher is reputed to be Attila the Hun's reincarnation and the subject won't get you an easy A. That's still better than looking back one day and regretting choosing a so-so subject over the one you're really passionate about.

3. Sit down to learn. Pick a seat near the front of the class so you can pay more attention to the teacher and participate in discussions. You'll be thanking the stars when you get your report card and be glad you did not sit at the back of the classroom to gossip with your friends.

4. Make at least one new acquaintance every day and make school life more interesting. Smile at that Bio classmate whom you never get to talk to when you pass each other at the corridors. Attend activities of your organization or club and strike up a conversation with persons sitting near you. Remember the names of people introduced to you (Tip: Ask them to repeat their names to facilitate recall). Imagine how many people you'd know in one year.

> Make the most of your days in school so you don't regret what might have been

5. Choose your teachers wisely. Ask upperclassmen for advice if you can pick your classes/teachers. Make the effort to "fight" for the good teachers when signing up. Teachers really make all the difference.

6. Do your homework. Doing advance readings and exercises and solving problems really give you an edge over your classmates as you develop a more comprehensive understanding of the lesson.

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

7. Stop the *mañana* habit. Some students claim to work best under pressure. Others say they work only under pressure. Although doing things at the last minute may bring out the best in some, it is really disastrous in the long run. Cramming every once in a while may be okay—but as a way of life, it's a no-no. If you can do it today, why wait for tomorrow? You'd have to do it anyway.

8. Understand the lesson. It's pointless copying answers without understanding the logic behind them.

9. Use your (free) cuts wisely. Just because you have a certain allotted number of cuts, it doesn't mean you can go crazy cutting classes left and right until you've reached your limit. Not only will you miss important lectures but, sometimes, you become so addicted you end up with a grade of F.

10. Don't be late. Not only will you distract the rest of the class, but you miss some important points. You're also likely to miss quizzes given at the beginning of the period.

11. Make use of consultation hours. There's a reason teachers hold them. Discuss your difficulties with your teachers. Get their approval on topics for final papers, or ask what you need do to get a good grade.

12. Strive to stand out from among thousands of students in your school. Excel in what you do. If you're a good actor, aim for the lead role in a major school play. If you're an athlete, work to win a medal. If writing is your passion, join the school paper.

13. Look for scholarships and other sources of money for schooling. Your parents will be so glad.

But to qualify for those grants, you need to:

14. Aim for the honor roll. Don't just settle for a passing grade. When you aim higher, you psych yourself to work harder and you improve your chances to attain your goal.

15. Get adequate sleep. Studies show that poor sleeping habits make concentration in class difficult, leading to low marks. Avoid cramming papers until the wee hours of the morning and stop gabbing on the phone unnecessarily.

Learn to:

16. Prioritize. As a new school year unfolds, we suddenly have five million things to do once again. The key is to rank everything in order of importance.

17. Bring only the necessities. Try to have a constant supply of tissue, alcohol/sanitary wash, umbrella, extra shirt (especially if you have Physical Education classes), towel in your bag. They help you feel fresh and clean throughout the long school hours and serve as your little saviors in times of crisis.

18. Go for the "extra" mile. If your professor assigned you to read up to chapter 3, read till chapter 5. If you've finished the required reading list, move to the supplementary reading list. Submit requirements as early as you can. If the teacher gives a bonus project, do it. Doing something "extra" is a mark of excellence.

19. Choose your groupmates wisely. Make sure they're not freeloaders.

20. Wear comfortable clothes. The last thing you want is to fall flat in the middle of the campus because your shoes tripped you. Or, you don't want to constantly cover your chest with your hands because your top is cut too low. Remember that you have a long day ahead of you and you don't want your activities to be restricted.

21. Put money in your locker for those days when you leave your wallet at home.

22. Develop good study habits. As corny as it sounds, good study habits already win half the battle for high marks. Set aside a specific portion of your time for studying. Have a permanent study corner or stay in the school library.

23. Recycle books. Borrow books from older siblings, cousins and friends who have taken the same class. Not only will you save money, but you can make use of their highlighted texts and the little notes they made.

24. Keep a schedule notebook to keep track of tests, deadlines and after-school activities. It also lets you avoid sticky situations, like appearing for an exam on another day or time (usually, too late!).

25. Have fun. Admit it, school is fun despite your moaning and groaning. These are the best days of your life, the days you'll cherish when you're old and gray. So enjoy yourself this school year and good luck!

E-mail the authors at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com (Cheryl) and mel@atenista.net (Melissa)

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A different kind of soap

The Taiwanese 'Meteor Garden' shoots for a niche in the Mexican-dominated world of soap operas

IN THIS SOAP, the boys of F4 bully San Cai (center).

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

THE PINOY body clock is ruled by soap operas, from the cult Mexican soaps such as "Marimar" to the homegrown melodramas such as "Mara Clara."

The latest imported soap opera is the Taiwanese "Meteor Garden," which stars Barbie Xu Xi Yuan of the duo SOS. It also stars the boy band F4, composed of Jerry Yen, Vic Zhou, Ken Zhu and Vanness Wu.

Barbie plays San Cai, a poor strong-willed girl who enters a high-class university. The school's social hierarchy is run by a group of rich kids called the F4 (strangely, the F originally stood for Flower).

San Cai is bullied by these boys, but unlike the other students, she surprises them by fighting back.

Then comes the love angle. San Cai falls for Hua Ze Lei, one of the bullies, who does not reciprocate. The group's leader, Dao Ming Si (played by ex-model Jerry Yen), ends up falling for the stubborn San Cai instead, leading to the show's main conflict.

Dao's miseducation in the world of romance gets him into hilarious situations with the incredulous San Cai. Early on in the series, he has her kidnapped and brought to his house with the intention of ordering her to be his girlfriend. Instead of doing nice things to the girl he likes, he steals her shoes. Even funnier are the scenes where the doll-like San Cai fights back both verbally and physically—quite unusual for a soap.

Flawed

For a non-soap opera fan, I was surprised to find myself clicking on the remote late in the afternoon to see how the story is progressing.

"Meteor Garden" has flaws. The background piano music is quite beautiful and tear-jerking, but it's also repetitive and tiring. The dubbing is not excellent. There are inaccurate translations, understandably to fit the Tagalized version. Good thing the Mandarin subtitles have been retained, which helps me improve my Chinese.

The show does not strike me as something made on a high budget. In fact, it was meant to eventually launch the individual careers of F4.

In addition, some of the ideas brought about by the characters are quite questionable, such as San Cai's parents wanting her to marry for money.

Toned down

"Meteor Garden" exercises some subtlety in presenting life's lessons. There is no exaggerated villain. There aren't any of the stock characters and situations in Philippine and Latin American melodramas such as amnesia, giant train wrecks, switched births or tangled family feuds.

The storyline consists of a simple boy-meets-girl plot that is quite easy to follow. Emotions are acted out through facial expressions instead of overwhelming diatribe, making it a show to actually watch, not simply hear as you do something else.

The laconic quality of the script is a plus. Apart from the constant bantering between Dao and San Cai and the neurotic ramblings of San Cai's parents, the script is basically toned down. The characters are also shown in internal locution.

Gorgeous

The actors obviously fuel the ratings. With a gorgeous boy band and one half of a female duo taking the lead, it's obvious this series is eye candy.

And it doesn't hurt that the lead characters are not shy and helpless and don't need to be rescued.

San Cai is a feisty heroine. She's tough, stubborn and independent,

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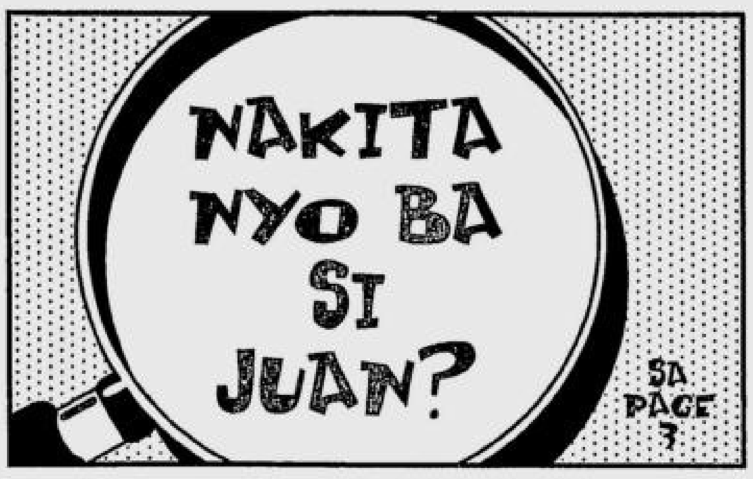
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SA PAGE 7

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1181, Series of 2003

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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Sharing a room or flat with others may make or break college life

Surviving life with "strangers"

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

BEFORE I STARTED college, I worried about many things: Will I have good friends in the campus? Am I in the right course? Will I get good grades? Can I prove I deserve my full scholarship at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)?

I was stepping into a whole new world, and the only person I knew in school was my good friend Tess Zamora, a high-school classmate. But she was in a different "block," so we wouldn't be classmates in several subjects.

After enrollment, I was faced with another problem—where to live?

I didn't want to live in a women's dorm because I wouldn't feel at home there. So one day, before school opened, my mother and I went looking for an apartment outside the campus.

Tess was lucky. She had an aunt who lived inside the campus. I would have to live and deal with complete strangers who could ruin each day of my college life.

So I was not excited to meet my first housemates. It didn't help that, as an only child, I had my bedroom to myself and had no idea about sharing a room with strangers.

I told myself that, whatever happened on our first meeting, I would insist on one thing: The lights should be off by midnight. I can't sleep with the lights on.

Four's company

The first roommate I met was Marlet Desuyo, a Bicolana and BS Economics student. She was shy (although she did change, and how!) but warm and friendly.

We talked and concluded that our meeting was written in the stars, especially when we realized that her father was in the apartment when we came and even had a long chat with my mother.

The second roommate was Joan Esquillo from Mindoro Occidental, BS Agriculture. A fun-loving person, we watched together a Rivermaya concert in the campus and had a blast.

Roommate No. 3 was Lourdes Perez from Marikina City, BS Nutrition. She later became my dearest "elder sister," and I am now the godmother of her first child.

All my fears about living with strangers were unfounded, after all. We even unanimously agreed to turn the lights off by midnight.

Even Luz Custodio, our landlady, was very kind and patient.

Nine in a house

In my second year, I had difficulty budgeting my money. It occurred to me that I could reduce my expenses by cooking my meals, instead of buying all the time. I asked around and learned that one of my blockmates, Guada Ramos, could take in a new roommate because one of them was graduating.

I transferred to their apartment, where the rent was lower, and learned to cook and go to the market. I had the coolest time ever sharing the place with eight others, who I remain closely in touch with up to now.

My college life changed drastically, though. In my old place, life was generally smooth and easy. There was little responsibility other than to help keep our room clean.

In the new apartment, I had to go to the market with the others, cook for nine, wash the dishes and try to maintain sanity in the whole house during exam time, especially finals. Still, it was more fun than tiring.

When one of us had to stay in a hospital, everybody did her part to make the patient feel better. We helped nurse broken hearts, providing a lot of encouragement to move on. We would go out with other friends then share the highs and lows of each day with housemates before going to bed. I never knew how it was to have siblings until I lived with them.

I'm sharing some of the things I've learned from past housemates and roommates, which will hopefully help you cope with living with strangers in college.

Surviving housemates

1. **Divide duties fairly and attend to your tasks diligently.** If you're in charge of cleaning the house but would be unable to do the chore because of some activities you cannot avoid, inform your housemates right away and trade schedules with someone else. Don't be late when you're supposed to cook dinner, and don't ask someone who has classes at 7 a.m. to prepare breakfast.

2. **Be responsible for each other's safety.** Lock the house when you leave and keep the police station phone number handy because you'll never know when your security will be threatened. One night, a housemate, Ate Vic, had to crawl from her room to ours so she could alert us that someone was trying to open our door.

We were very scared but were quite prepared for anything. Fortunately, the robber must have given up on the lock that time. But we weren't as lucky during one summer break. We found when we returned that most of our clothes and some important items were gone. We were robbed. At least nobody got hurt.

And, if you think somebody's stalking you, let your housemates know so they could help.

3. **Know what will make your housemates sick.** Don't cook prawns when somebody's allergic to it, and don't smoke inside the house if someone is asthmatic.

4. **Set a visitor's curfew.** That's one serious rule to follow, so tell your boyfriend he can't stay beyond 11 p.m.

5. **Return what you borrow all the time.** If you need to borrow a housemate's book while she's out and it is on her table, be sure it is back where you got it when she returns.

6. **Don't spend a lifetime in the bathroom,** especially if your class is at 8 a.m. and your housemate's is at 7.

7. **Keep your things neat.** The person cleaning the house may do a good job but, if you can help her by keeping your papers piled neatly and your shoes arranged neatly as well, that would be appreciated.

8. **Warn your housemates if you have sleepwalked even just once in your life.** It could be a real shocker if it happens again, believe me.

9. **If your housemate's parents drop by, be polite and courteous.** If you feel they'd be visiting often, know their names.

10. **Do not gossip** about your housemates. Enough said.

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

When 'Teach' doesn't help you learn

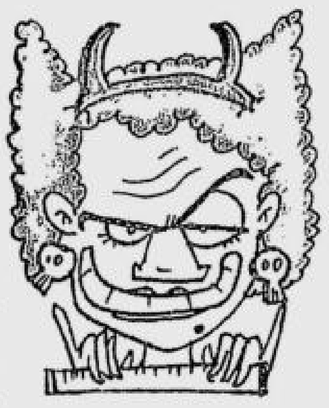
By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

We can help correct whatever's wrong with incapable or inept teachers

IN A PERFECT universe, Michelle Pfeiffer, Maricel Soriano and Whoopi Goldberg are the ideal teachers.

But in our imperfect world, we have to settle for the diligent, patient and inspiring souls who selflessly share with us golden nuggets, moral lessons and how to find the square-root. Unfortunately, many Miss Minchin's are on the loose, but they make school life so colorful and cinematic. Do you know Miss Monotony or the teacher who does nothing but let you copy a million words a week?

Here are some of their relatives, and some unsolicited suggestions on dealing with them.



The Terror

She strikes terror in the hearts of everyone and is stereotypically portrayed as someone who snaps at everybody, throws dagger looks and lets loose merciless comments about one's intelligence or lack of. In reality, what makes the terror teacher scary is how she expects every student in her class to know the lesson and participate in class.

For students who come to school prepared, the terror teacher does not exactly induce panic. So the key to coping with this teacher is to simply be an ideal student. Be an ideal student and expect bucketloads of benefits.

The Terror Wannabe

It is easy to spot someone who pretends to be a toughie just to make the class silent or attentive. A teacher who shouts or walks out regularly is someone trying to cover up his/her insecurities and inadequacies. May be all he/she needs is an attentive, mature class willing to learn.

The Superbore

No matter how many Kopiko candies you pop into your mouth, this teacher still makes your eyelids droop and brings in the z's. It may be her soft, incomprehensible falsetto, her statue pose for at least an hour, or her dull, weak way with words. Unfortunately, the reason is almost always something hard to change. If a couple of direct suggestions don't work, try to liven up her class by asking pertinent questions or cracking jokes that can provide a breath of fresh air in the classroom.

ASK ME ANYTHING ...
STEPH B.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

The Perpetual Report Giver

Many lazy limbs are out there, and one way of delivering the goods without breaking out into a sweat is to assign students to report on a topic.

This is acceptable when done only for a small part of the semester or school year, or when desperate students want a chance to raise their grades. But when a teacher requires a report every day without adding his/her five centavos worth of wisdom, someone better report him/her fast.

Not only is the professor getting a salary without doing much, the students also miss the opportunity to get accurate and complete information. Students can't be constantly teaching each other through their reports. Besides, it is the teacher's job to teach, not the student's.

Mr. Know-It-All

A teacher who has sufficient knowledge about everything is to be admired until Mr. Know-It-All begins to rub it in or reveals he doesn't really know a lot.

A lack of humility is distracting while the absence of knowledge (while having the gall to claim otherwise) is disadvantageous. Try to let him/her know what the problem is or let the administration deal with it. Pray, too, that the school term finishes soon and the teacher won't be staying behind.

The Attendance Checker

In college, really bad professors come late, check the attendance and quickly disappear, much to the delight of many students. Although it is a welcome surprise occasionally, it is pretty annoying on a regular basis. Not only do you learn nothing, you also waste time, money and effort in going to school just to have your attendance checked, especially if it's the only class you have for the day.

After the teacher has left, you can't expect a group study or a class trip to the library. On the first sign that your teacher is a mere attendance checker, go tell the administration so it can do something about it and you won't waste a whole semester. What is 100-percent attendance when there's 0-percent knowledge?

Miss Copy This

Armed with rolls of manila paper, stacks of acetate or a book and a good voice, the teacher who lets you copy, copy and copy (not to mention copy) is seriously lazy and incompetent. She wastes precious time because she focuses on unimportant things. The ideal teacher provides minimum visual aid and lets the students take note only of what they think is worthwhile. By instantly asking questions to clarify or to debate a point, you can make sure the teacher not only makes you copy, but also explains what she wants you to copy.

The Inexperienced Fresh Graduate

There is always a first time for everything, and one doesn't have to suck as a first-time teacher. Neophyte teachers fresh out of college can't blame youth or lack or experience for their incompetence. Besides, practice and training can help a first-timer prepare. Because students find them young and hip, some tend to just chat and fool around instead of teach. If the teacher is too weak to resist temptation, the students shouldn't tempt him/her into engaging in chitchat or *chismis*.

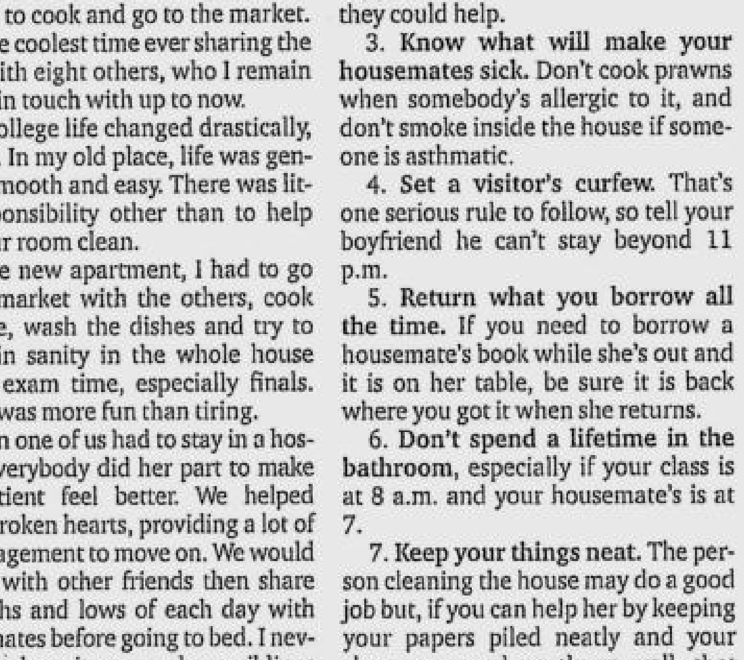
Remember that no matter how seemingly incapable or inept teachers are, we can help correct whatever's wrong with them. As students, we should let our teachers know when something's not right with their actions. We should let the administration know when we feel they hired someone incompetent or inappropriate for the job. It is our responsibility to make sure we get our money's worth.

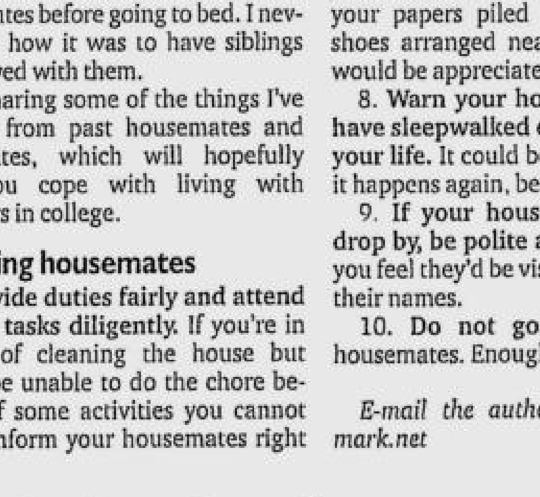
E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

A different kind of soap

From page D1

definitely not one of those damsels in distress usually populating Filipino TV.





"SAY Hua Ze Lei..." Pinoys are going to tongue-twist their way to get their Taiwanese names right.

Teng Tang Ching, who forms a love triangle with San Cai and Hua Ze Lei, is not a villainess. On the contrary, her striking beauty and regal bearing help make her one of the most endearing characters in the series.

The fact that the lead characters have their flaws also makes the story more realistic. And the constant fighting between the romantic leads is not something that you normally see in soaps.

Animé personified

Ultimately, the key factor in the success of this show is that it is animé personified. This is not surprising, since the entire series is based on a Japanese comic book called "Hana Yori Dango" (which literally means "Men are Better than Flowers").

The series is highly influenced by popular comic art. The characters' hairdos are either very smoothly arranged or spiky. Their gestures seem to be derived from a cartoon. For instance, when San Cai makes a move to throw away the dress given to her by Dao, she stops in mid-throw and stays in that position for several seconds.

The never-ending arguments between boy and girl are also characteristic of a manga cartoon. Ditto with the love triangles and quadrangles.

Whether you're a fan of the show or not, what is good about having this series is that it broadens the spectrum of our soap opera experience.

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LEONE pens get an A-rating from many Gen Y-ers because they are hip and practical. The pens write smoothly, are equipped with gel ink, have trendy colors and stylish designs. Unlike other gel pens, they are refillable.

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The transparent retractable Leone Sign Ball Pens with rubber grip come in a variety of attractive colors.

Leone Gel Pens are distributed by Star Paper Corporation and available in National Bookstore branches, SM Department Stores, Robinsons Department Stores, NBS Book Express, Goodwill Bookstore, Pandayan Bookshop, Office Warehouse, Lopues, Bohol Quality, Bazaar Mariano Lim, Laser Marketing, Lucky Educational Supply, Master Square, City Supermarkets, Fit Mart (Marbel, Tacurong, General Santos), Marbel Ace Commercial and other leading book stores nationwide.

Things I should have done in school

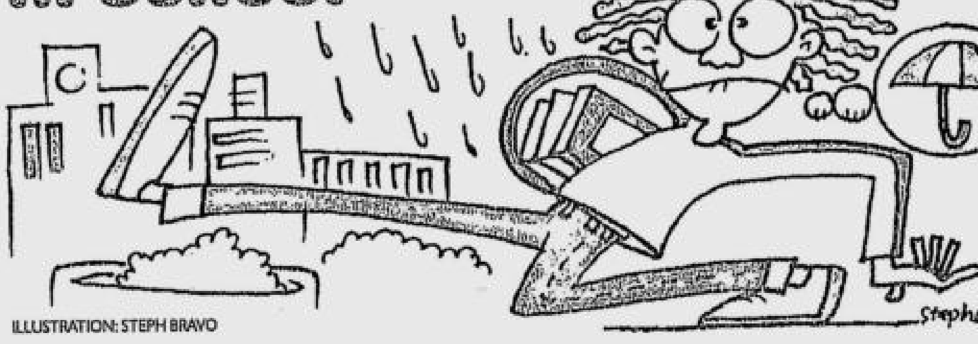


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

University life is too short that you might end up regretting not doing some things

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

IN THE SHORT time I was in college, I accomplished personal goals, but looking back, I realize that there that there are a few things I regret not doing. I've drawn up a list of things I should have done, which list probably includes stuff you also wanted to do.

Making friends with teachers who believed in me. Once in a while in school, you come across a teacher whom you may not feel drawn to, yet, you'll be surprised to know, believes in you. She gives you good grades (even if you are not doing so well), commends you for the simplest accomplishments and makes positive remarks on your papers.

You may not feel worthy of the simple expressions of faith, but then it also makes you feel good about yourself. Be responsive to the teachers who do this to you. The least you can do is thank them and show that their faith is justified.

Sharing a special bond with teachers who inspired me. It's wonderful when people who inspire you shower you with attention. But even if they don't like you back, the fact that they're helping you toward self-enrichment is enough reason to establish closer ties with these people. Invite the good vibes in and give back what you get.

Extending a little help to a needy but deserving classmate. You may have a classmate who is short of money for her school needs but is eager to finish her studies. She's the first to come to class, allows her homework to be copied and is the life of class discussions (you can see her hand frantically waving right before your eyes trying to catch the teacher's attention). During exam weeks, though, she disappears. With the "no permit, no exam" policy (you don't get a permit to take the test unless you pay the fees due), she abandons the dream of perfect attendance and acing the exams.

If you have one of those classmates, get your *barkada* to help in whatever little way you can, making sure you don't make her feel like a charity case.

Updating reviewers systematically. Cramming seems to be accepted, but a little diligence will allow students to prepare their reviewers a couple of days before the actual exam. I always promised myself to update mine week after week without much success. Lack of discipline, I know.

I ended up with embarrassing grades and feeling regretful for lacking discipline.

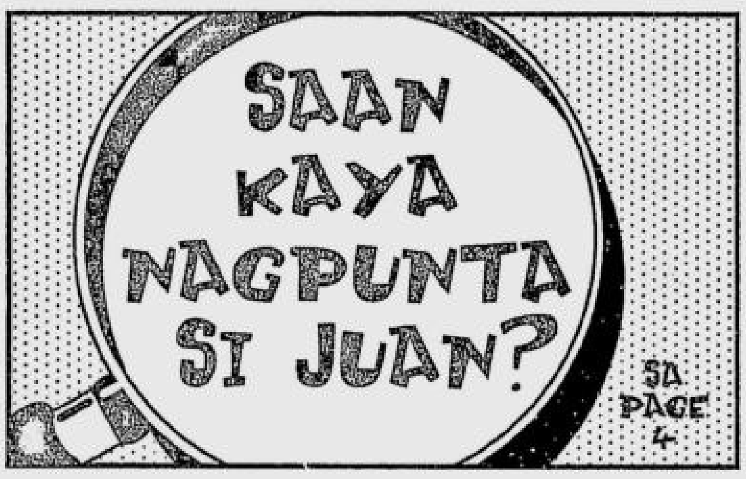
Raising my hand when I know the answer to a question. I've always been reluctant to participate in class discourse, not wanting to recite especially if I didn't have anything different to say. I wanted people to be interested in what I had to say, so I waited for my moments. So I thought the same, I kept silent and lost points for failing to recite in class. Now I know I should have let my presence known by participating in class discussions. That would have made my name and face familiar to the teacher.

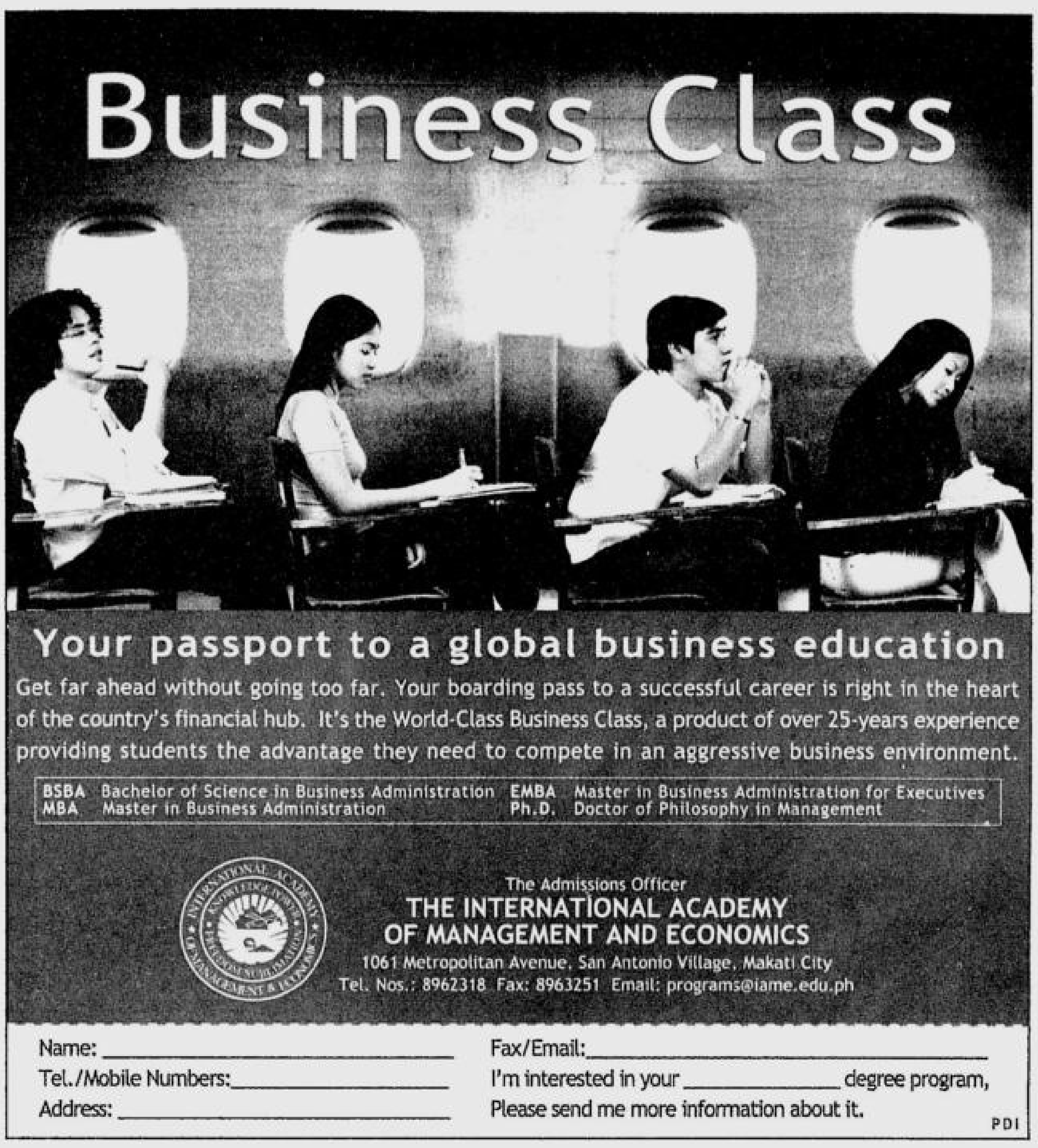
Bringing an umbrella when it looked like rain. Fashionable students try not to bring an umbrella to school so as not to ruin their look. Some just put on their most *"japorms"* sweaters or trench coats and brave the downpour.

But believe me, nothing beats an umbrella when the heavy rain falls.

Letting the schoolmate who stole my heart know. Since school becomes our everyday environment, it is probably where we will find the love of our life. If you feel strongly enough, make it known. Sometimes, you shoulsd stop playing safe; otherwise you'll still think about him seven or 10 years later.

E-mail the author at keewich@yahoo.com


SAAN KAYA NAGPUNTA SI JUAN?
SA PAGE 4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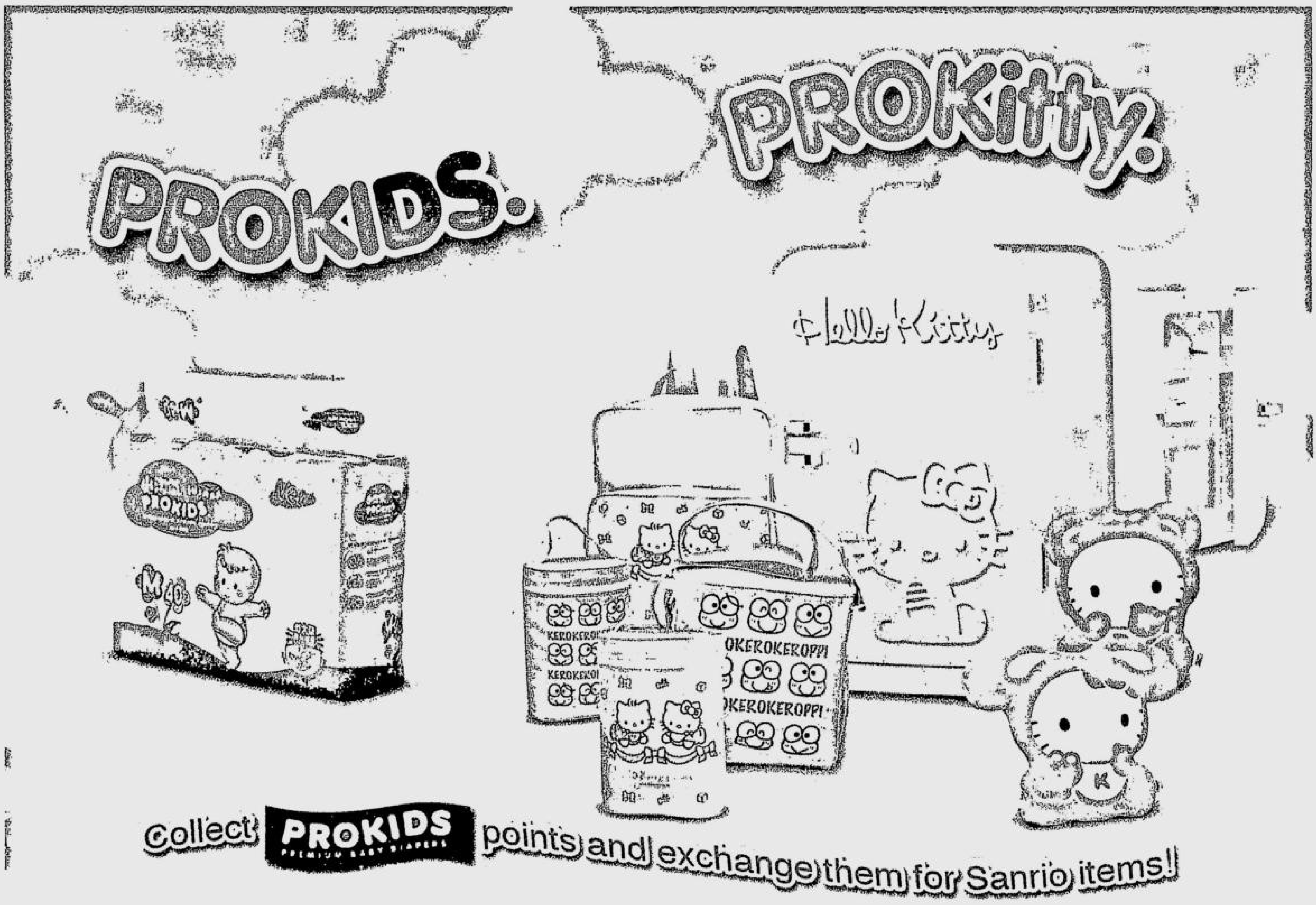
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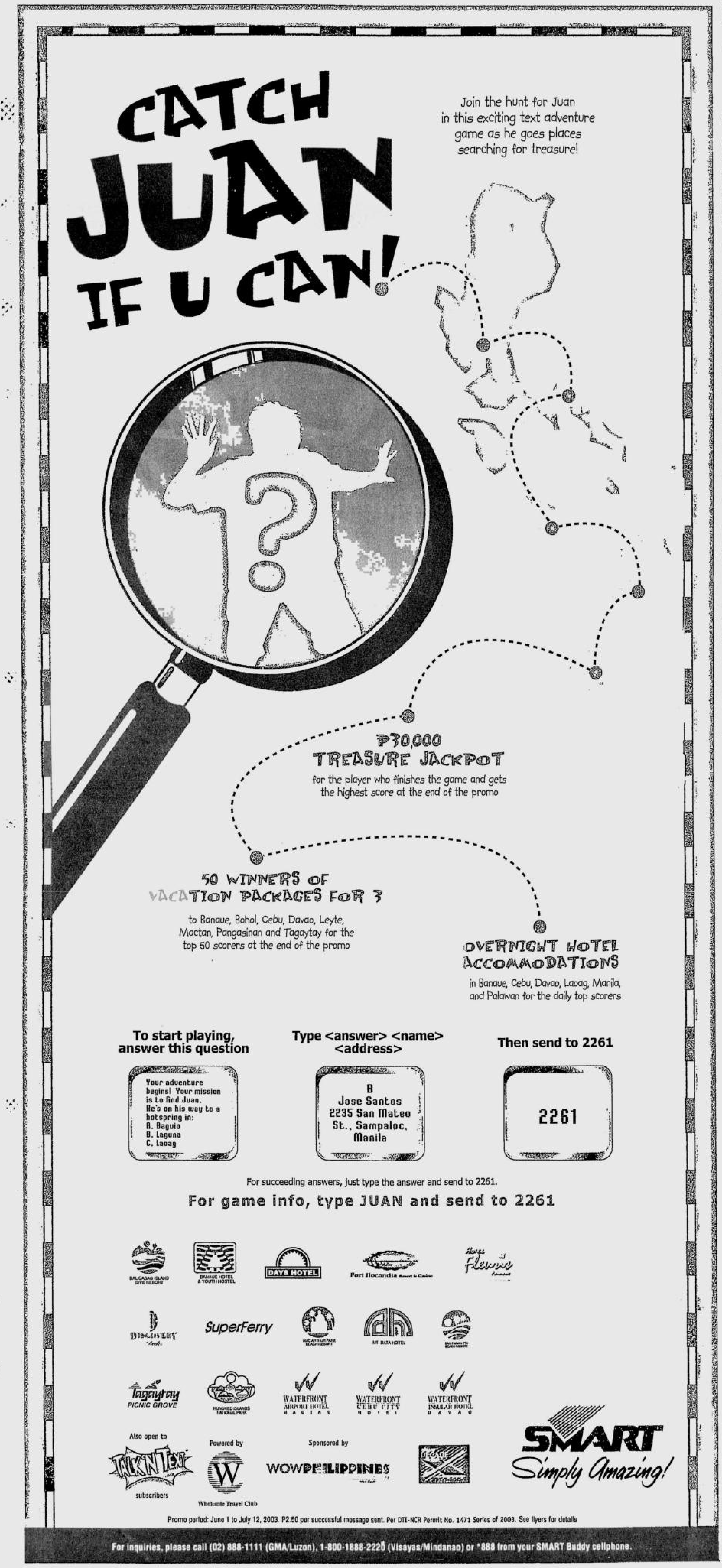

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College on my mind—in high school

By Maureen Tracy Limpe Tañedo
2bU! Correspondent

FOR MANY adolescents, high school is merely a place to see and to be seen. It is another step in the social ladder we are climbing, as defined by our peers, even as we attempt to absorb as much knowledge as we can.

Many consider high school as part of the coming-of-age "rites." After all, secondary education is another step before college.

After four years in high school, I could say I knew it well but I wish someone had given me a high-school timeline—not to kill spontaneity, but to make the most lemonade out of high school lemon.

Intimidating first year

First-year high school is almost intimidating, especially if it is not in the same institution as your grade school. It is really no different from the first time you went to grade school but without your parents in tow. There will be upperclassmen who swing through the halls like they own them. But most of them will prove they are not the monsters you thought they were.

Most people have a hard time getting excellent grades in the first year due to the changes involved. You'd probably want to feel your way around first before focusing on academics. While there is nothing wrong with that, you mustn't let your grades fall just because you are "adjusting."

Look around and see what organizations or extra-curricular activities interest you. Find out the school's academic requirements and learn such details as how you can be exempted from examinations.

Breezy second year

By this time, you may want to start thinking about what you want go into in and after college. Assess your strengths and weaknesses, and find out what you're good at. Your grades will help you identify where you are likely to do well.

Ask your guidance counselor to help you decide. Some schools offer students career and interest tests.

Work for good grades. Some universities decide admission by taking into account both high-school grades and results of entrance tests. Join organizations and extra-curricular activities, not just in school.

Don't join clubs just for the heck of it. Make sure you believe in the cause they espouse. Get involved in something you can willingly devote time to. The most important thing to get out of these activities is experience. No high school graduate is "complete" without picking up some knowledge outside the classroom.

Third year—decision time

For most people, third-year high school is the toughest. Most high schools by this time introduce chemistry, research (statistics), geometry and economics and/or world history. The combination seems daunting at first, but like anything else in the world, the situation isn't hopeless. Most colleges put a lot of weight on third-year grades in particular.

Third year is when all the fuss about college usually starts. If you're planning to study abroad, start visiting foreign colleges' websites. Find out from the admissions offices how foreign students can enroll or how to avail of scholarships.

If you are staying in the Philippines, you might want to enroll in review classes during summer to help you get a general feel of the testing different universities conduct. An alternative to review classes, which are not cheap, is to organize a study group with your friends. You get almost the same kind of assistance much more cheaply. Just borrow used review books and manuals. Colleges will test you on what they expect you to know in high school.

Spend the summer reflecting on what you like to study in college. It helps to start as early as possible. You can discuss your plans with your parents while making them understand that, in the end, you alone will make the decision.

Some online career tests such as those on emode.com might also help you decide. It might not seem much but, for the most part, it does the job—and for free, too. Don't get discouraged if you find it hard to decide. Most of your peers probably have the same problem.

Fourth year—time to leave

All the hard work in the past should have paid off by the time you get to fourth year. Your high-school life probably starts flashing before your eyes, and you start reminiscing. But before you start daydreaming, there's still the matter of getting into college, ideally, the one of your choice.

If you're uncertain of your chances of getting into a particular school, it is helpful to have one or two alternatives. Visit colleges' office of admissions as soon as possible. You may want to tour the campus during your visit to get a feel of life in the school. Ask around.

Remember to submit all requirements. Incomplete forms are not processed sometimes. Most colleges will let you know if you lack certain requirements, though.

After taking the entrance test, you can wait for the results and the acceptance letter/s. That's when you make the final decision about where to enroll. Take everything into consideration—the environment and location, academic standards, cost, etc. Keep in mind that one university can't have everything you want. Again ask around and visit the campus. Don't choose the "best" university but rather what is best for you.

Remember, too, that even as you try to make decisions about college, you have to make sure you do well in fourth year or you may not graduate at all.

Capturing Evanescence

2bU! shares 30 minutes with Ben Moody to talk about mullets, being a one-hit wonder and Linkin Park

NOT exactly vapor. LeCompt, Lee, Moody and Gray

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

IT was in a youth camp when a certain Ben Moody heard a girl play Meatloaf's "I'd Do Anything For Love" on the piano. He approached her, she sang for him. Moody then convinced the girl, Amy Lee, to join his "band."

Turned out "band" meant just him and Lee, under the name "Evanescence." After releasing EPs and what Moody describes as a "seven-minute, ridiculous Goth anthem," a local radio station picked up on the duo's work, and people started to pay attention, even without playing any live shows (Moody claims they didn't have any money to pay musicians to session for them at live shows).

Of course, that was more than seven years ago in Little Rock, Arkansas. As every musician's Cinderella dreams go, they got a producer (Dave Fortman, whose credits include the punk band Boysetsfire), cut an album ("Fallen") in Los Angeles, and got two tracks on a superhero movie soundtrack (the movie was a flop, but the soundtrack rocked).

Before we jump into how unfair it is to label them as a Linkin Park rip-off and question their spirituality (Christian rock, anyone?), 2bU! shares 30 minutes with Evanescence's Ben Moody to talk about mullets, being a one-hit wonder, and, well, the Linkin Park association.

First things first: Why the name Evanescence?

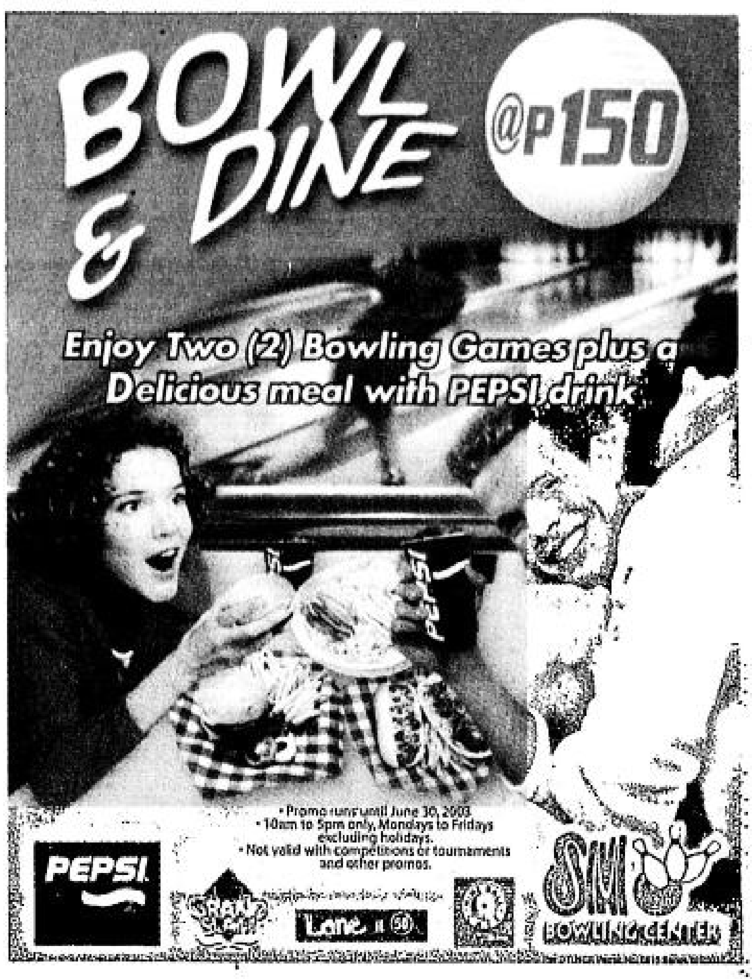
We flipped through the dictionary looking for a name because everything else we wanted was already taken. And we saw Evanescence. We don't care about the meaning, we just think it sounds pretty cool.

You've always wanted to be a musician, I suppose?

Oh yeah. I've always wanted to play music. I mean, not as a career, but just to make music.

But yeah, as a child growing up, I had delu-

CAPTURING/ E2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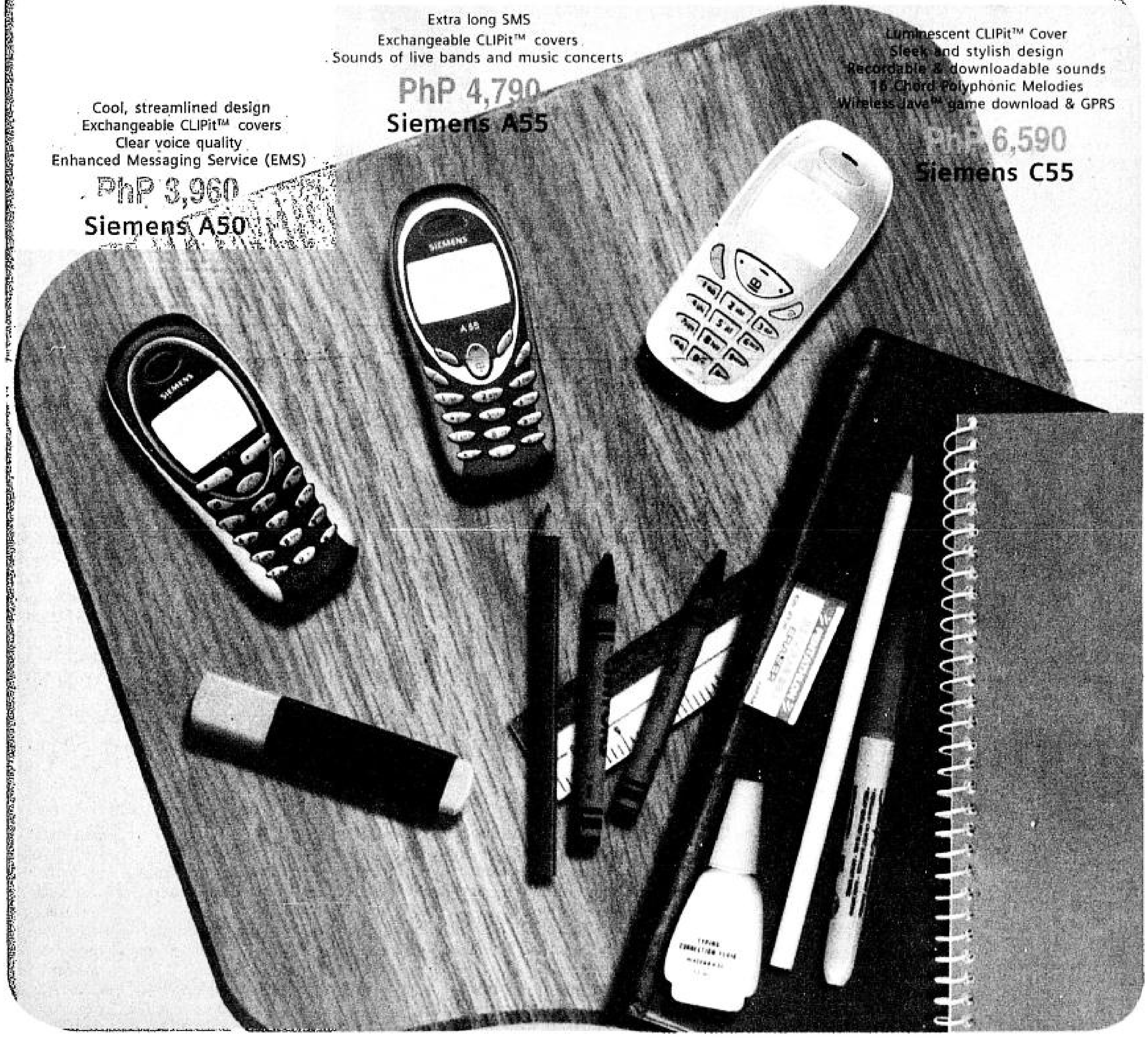
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Last shot at the movies

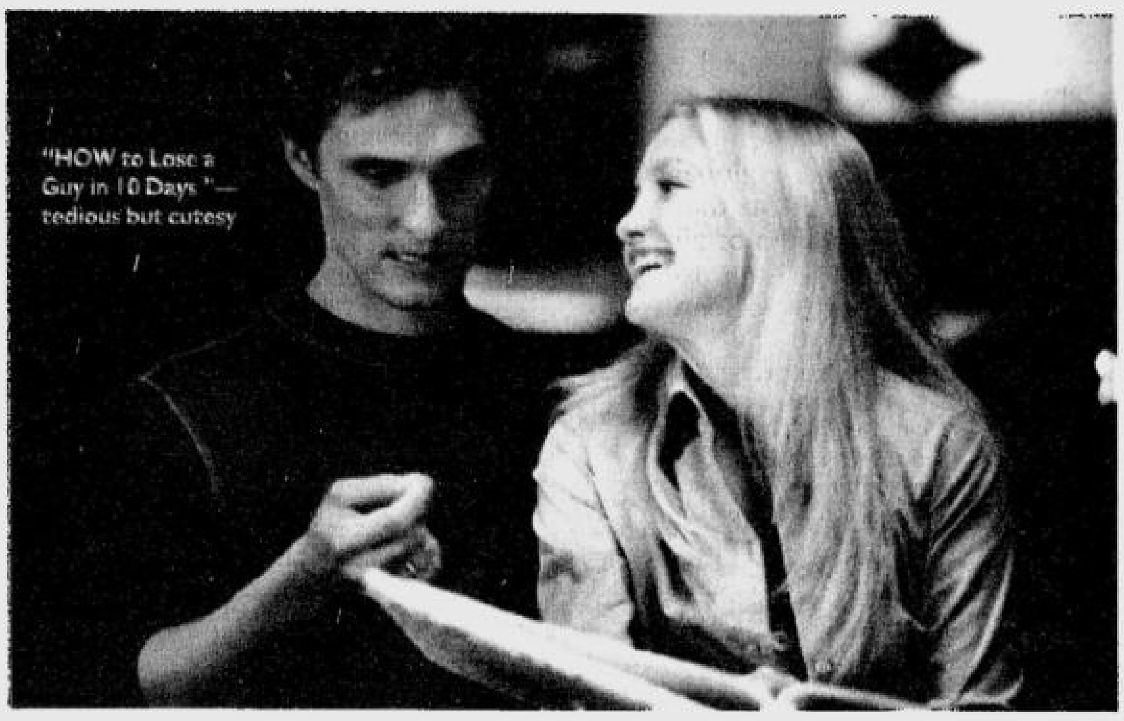
By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

WITH ONLY a few days before school starts, the pressure builds on how we're going to spend them.

We've caught up on sleep, traveled, shopped for school supplies, and read all the books we never had a chance to.

One of the few things left is, of course, to watch a movie or two.

2bU! takes a popcorn break and reviews some of the movies that have played in the past week.


"HOW to Lose a Guy in 10 Days"—tedious but cutesy

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

Paramount Pictures
Directed by Donald Petrie

As far as romantic comedies go, "How to Lose a Guy" is entirely in its element. Kate Hudson plays Andie Anderson, how-to girl for Composure Magazine, who, in trying to help a fellow writer out of an assignment, ends up with the strangest one: write an article about dating in reverse.

Her target is Benjamin Barry (Matthew McConaughey), an advertising executive who made a bet with his colleagues that he can stay in a relationship. When one is determined to end the relationship, and other is fighting to keep it, it can only proceed in true Hollywood fashion: unbelievable comedy.

Although it is your typical romantic comedy, this movie does have its moments, which can be attributed to the chemistry between Hudson and McConaughey. The former plays the clingy girlfriend down to the hilt, while her leading man is on the edge of a nervous breakdown after being victim to her antics.

For instance, Andie makes up a photo album of their future children. She also presents him with a dog with a ridiculously small bladder, as well as a jacket that matches the dog's outfit. She serves cucumber sandwiches to his friends, and nicknames his genitals "Princess Sophia."

In spite of these moments, the movie does have its share of flaws. Like most romantic comedies, its premise is quite implausible. Andie's desperate ways to dump Ben can also get tedious. The ending also does not give you anything new. But maybe the film's overall light cutesy theme is just what you need after a long day.

Frida

Miramax
Directed by Julie Taymor

Mexican actress Salma Hayek may not have won the Oscar, but she certainly put up a good fight with her portrayal as Frida Kahlo.

The 20th century painter is relatively unknown to Pinoys, but this movie will change all that. This woman has become a feminist icon in her own right. Her face was even on a US postage stamp.

The movie hit most of the important events in Frida's life, making it quite documentary-like in its execution, but also with its share of Hollywood truth-stretching.

This is probably the biggest factor that will determine whether you'll like it or not. For example, one of the major events tackled in the movie was her life-changing trolley accident, which in reality left her debilitated for most of her life.

SALMA Hayek gives a vibrant and energetic performance as Frida Kahlo.

In the movie, however, Frida simply recovers from the accident and uses it as a springboard for her career in art. Hollywood omission aside, director Julie Taymor makes the accident quite poetic, giving the audience a taste of how the rest of the film was made: as a painting.

Indeed, if there's one thing to watch out for in this movie, it's the masterful direction of Julie Taymor. Her depiction of Frida's paintings coming to life helps breach the distance between reality and fiction, transporting us to the unfamiliar world of old Mexico.

The movie is also the meeting point of the romance and the politics that permeated the artist's life: The bohemian circle of Frida Kahlo and Diego Molina includes David Siqueiros (Antonio Banderas), Diego's rival in the art world. Also included are Russian leader Leon Trotsky (Geoffrey Rush), photographer Tina Modotti (Ashley Judd) and Nelson Rockefeller (Edward Norton). The film is able to balance these two important aspects of Frida's life, making it both a political and artistic memoir.

If anything else, watch this film for the performance of Salma Hayek, who breaks out of her supporting actress shell and is finally thrust into the limelight. After competing with the likes of Jennifer Lopez and Madonna to get this film made, she truly gives a vibrant and energetic performance.

Bruce Almighty

Universal Pictures
Directed by Tom Shaydac

Omnipotence may be a good thing in the hands of God, but definitely not in the hands of Jim Carrey.

In this movie, he plays Bruce Nolan, a human interest reporter who is not contented with anything in his life. On one of his worse days, he explodes and rages against God for his luck. The Almighty, who takes the form of Morgan Freeman, reveals himself to Bruce and challenges him to take his job and see if he can do any better.

"SO Close" can compete with "Charlie's Angels"

Granted, this is not the first time Carrey has made a thought-provoking film hidden beneath the guise of a comedy. Watching Bruce Almighty might make one remember "Liar, Liar," another Carrey movie that poked fun at society's value of honesty.

Thankfully, the movie is not patterned after the lead star's slapstick "Ace Ventura" movies during his earlier years in film.

One of the best things about this movie is definitely Morgan Freeman, whose regal bearing makes him believable as God. "Bruce Almighty's" religious premise also makes for an interesting take on morality. It is interesting to note that it is through Bruce's newfound divinity that he finally realizes the true meaning of humanity.

So Close

Columbia Tristar
Directed by Cory Yuen

"*Walang sinabi ang* Charlie's Angels," my brother said after watching the first 10 minutes of the movie.

Indeed, if there's one contemporary film that can assure Asia of its action-flick crown, then "So Close" is definitely it.

Shu Qi and Vicki Zhao play two sisters, Lynn and Sue, who operate the World Panorama surveillance system that allows them to tap into any security system in the world. Assassins by trade, they break into the Chow computer system to ultimately kill its corrupt president with cyanide gas hidden in Lynn's sunglasses.

Conflict arises when the ones who hired them for the job now want them killed, and it doesn't help matters much when detective Kong Yat Hung, played by Karen Mok, will stop at nothing to have them arrested.

The main factor to watch for in this movie is obviously the well-crafted action scenes. Unlike the jerky in-your-face movements of usual action films, the movements here are quite graceful, almost dance-like.

In spite of weapons being used, noise is kept to a minimum. Take, for example, the first fight scene where Lynn takes on the entire security personnel of the computer giant. In the middle of gunfire, the noise is muted out, to be replaced with the song "Close to You."

The clothes are also something to watch out for. The ladies, decked out in high-heeled boots and monochromatic suits, paint a lovely picture when engaged in high-powered martial arts. Ditto for the gadgets that make the latest cell phones seem obsolete in comparison. There's nothing like being a fashionista when you're beating these evildoers to a pulp.

Beyond the action lies the movie's main theme—the relationship between two sisters who were orphaned at a young age and are set to take revenge against the world. They represent two archetypes in cinema: the older, hardened persona whose hands are forever stained by the blood of those she has killed (Lynn), and the younger, impulsive and reckless character who still has to learn certain responsibilities (Sue).

Vicky Zhao is especially remarkable in this film, not discounting the performance of Shu Qi, who has more than made up for turning down Zhang Ziyi's role in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Ring 0

Kadokawa Shoten
Directed by Tsuruta Norio

Not much was said about "Ring 2," the sequel to one of the most successful horror films to be shown in Manila since "The Sixth Sense."

That wasn't surprising, since it didn't compare with the original. But perhaps that's about to change with this prequel. "Ring 0" transports us to the 1960s, the time of Yamamura Sadako's lonely adolescence. Beautiful and intelligent, Sadako (Nakama Yukie) is in therapy, recuperating from her haunting childhood. She tries to find solace by joining the local drama troupe as an apprentice.

Soon, everyone in the group has strange dreams about this new girl. As everyone becomes suspicious, deaths begin to occur in the manner audiences are now familiar with.

Many of the actors also begin to resent Sadako's presence, especially since romance starts to blossom between her and Toyama (Tanabe Seiichi), the sound manager for the troupe. As he becomes more enamored by the beautiful quiet girl, the evil that has traumatized Sadako since childhood also begins to be unleashed.

Questions raised by "Ring" and "Ring 2" are answered by this film, as the members of the audience sit on the edge of their seats, witnessing the horror plaguing this protagonist-turned-villain.

Whatever went wrong with "Ring 2" is not repeated in this horror drama. Nakama Yukie is perfect for the character of the tragic Sadako, and it's hard to imagine a pretty girl like her transformed into a hideous monster.

Equipped with the same classic horror ingredients that made the first "Ring" so successful, "Ring 0" gives the audience what it wants: a Sadako that is larger than life.

"BRUCE Almighty"—more than just comedy

Capturing Evanescence

From page E1

sions of grandeur (laughs). I grew up listening to bands like Bon Jovi, Metallica, Poison.

Did you have a mullet?

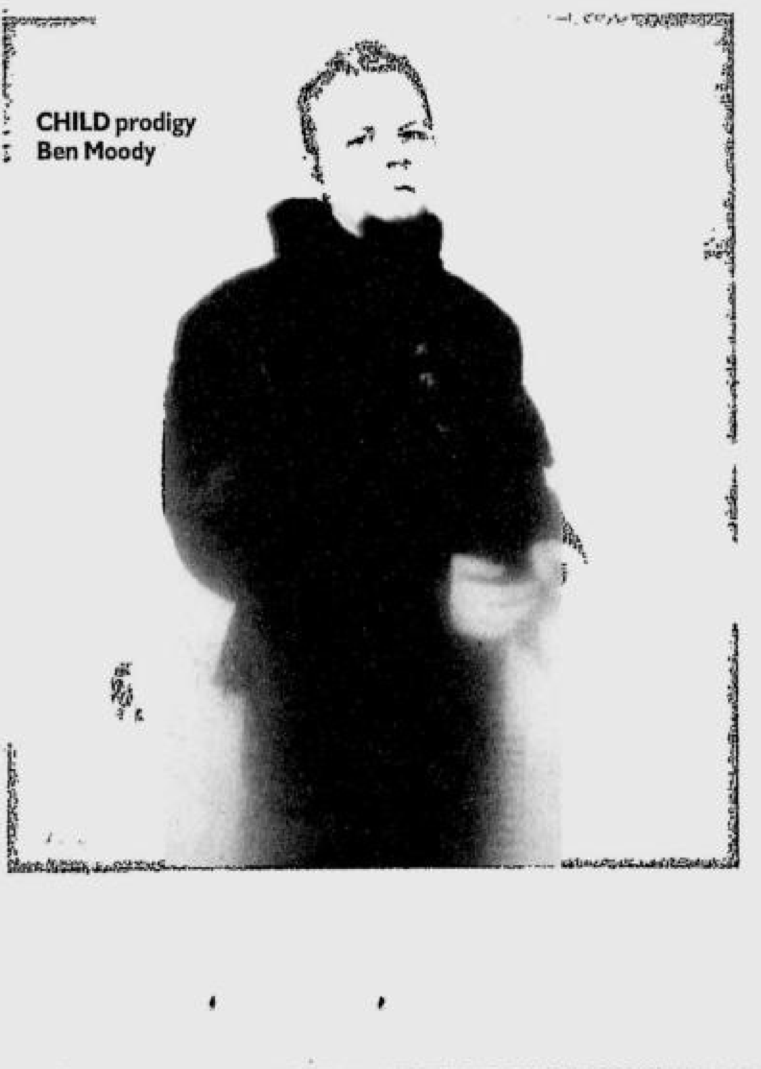
No, oh God, no! I had long hair at like, 5, 6, or 7 years old, and then I had spiky hair at 10. Now my hair just sucks. I think it's telling me I ought to try the mullet.

Right. Tell us how the first few EPs sounded like.

We were really young. Amy was 14 and I was 15. I wrote "My Immortal" when I was 15.

We never really had an official EP. Whenever we made money, we'd spend it on new gear. I guess I could say they were of poor quality. I mean, we recorded them in my bedroom.

[The songs] didn't translate well, because we had really poor gear. And it's not as focused as the songs on "Fallen," and we didn't have the choir or orchestra.


CHILD prodigy Ben Moody

And how'd you hook up with the other musicians (John LeCompt on guitars and Rocky Gray on drums)?

We got them after we recorded "Fallen," and they've played with us before at home, and we needed musicians for our tour.

While recording "Fallen," how much creative freedom did you have?

Total control. The record company was totally supportive of our vision, and we had David Campbell. We had an orchestra and everything. I would say "Fallen" turned out to be what Amy and I envisioned it would be.

Do you see yourself producing in the future?

Oh yes, definitely. I've worked in studios, done radio commercials, and animation projects.

It's just a dream come true. I've produced demos for some artists. I love staying in the studio, I love engineering. I'd love to be working in the studio even when I'm old and gray.

Okay, let's talk about songwriting. Are the songs on "Fallen" based on personal experiences?

Amy writes a lot from personal experiences. She expounds on them, exaggerates them.

I do storytelling. I wrote a lot of short stories before. "My Immortal" is a story that I've written before. I don't think many people would want to read my short stories, though.

How did "Bring me to Life" (done with Paul McCoy of 12 Stones) end up on the "Daredevil" soundtrack?

Well what happened is, Wind-Up Records lobbied for it. Fox was looking for a female-fronted band to give it that Electra feel, and we were really, really lucky to get two songs on the album. As for the Electra movie, I haven't heard any word [if we'll be in the soundtrack].

And what's your say when people compare the band to Linkin Park?

I just think people haven't listened to the record. Linkin Park is a great band, don't get me wrong, I think they're really great and talented musicians. It's just one song on the record.

Are you afraid of being labeled a "one hit wonder?"

We would be if we didn't have something to back [our success] up. We're releasing "Going Under," and we're doing the video, and I'm really confident. And it's just another title I don't give a s--t about.

Do you see yourself directing a video for the band?

Amy and I are very much involved in making the video. And I do want to get into film, but not too soon.

I mean, there are some who get this instant success and they're off getting book deals and selling paintings and directing. I don't want to jump into something right away. I'll just make an ass of myself.

Any artist you'd want to collaborate with?

Oh, check out this band called Revis! Their album's coming out on May 20, and I'd love to work with them!

Are you just saying that because you're friends with them?

No, I mean, we went on tour with them and I met them after that, but I mean, I'm very critical of bands, and they just blew me away.

Okay Mr. Critic, last question: What band was a total waste of studio time?

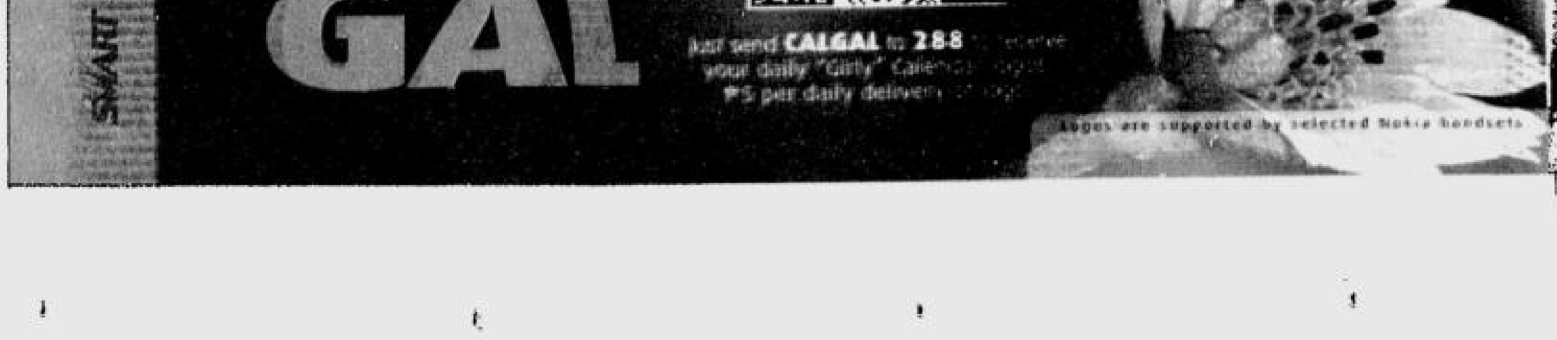
I don't know. I don't want to get into trouble. This is hard. Oh f--k it, Fred Durst.

That's a given. Someone else.

I'm so stumped, I don't want to hurt anyone.

That's what critics do.

Okay fine, (names a commercial pop punk band). It's just my opinion. I don't know why, I just don't see the point.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'Mini-grownups' take over

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

AVON sees itself as a global company for women that reaches out to women of all ages. Now it is reaching out to teenagers as well through the Teen Advisory Council (TAC).

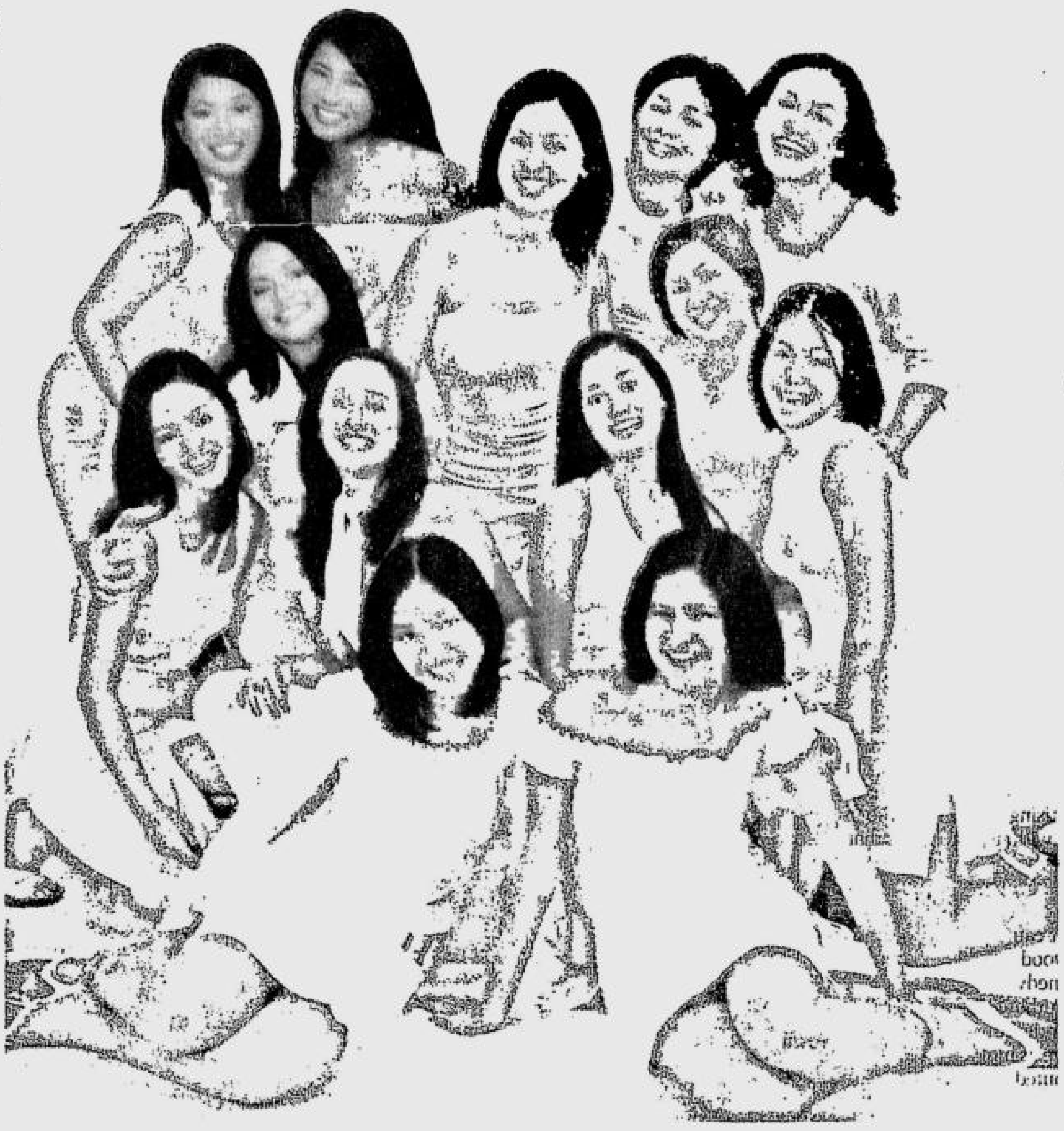
Now on its second year, the TAC recognizes goal-oriented teenagers who excel in school. According to Louie Migne, senior PR manager for Avon, TAC members must be well-rounded and socially aware. They must also get along well with their peers and be highly regarded in their schools.

Out of 100 aspirants, 30 finalists were named, who were further narrowed down to 13.

The 2003 TAC is composed of Jessica Mendoza, Danielle Marie "Dani" de Castro and Alexandra "Alexa" Ramos from Colegio de San Agustin; Jezalin Panaligan from Malate Catholic School; Mich Lagdameo, Katrina Mae "Kamae" de Jesus, Mikaela "Mika" Baron and Ma. Kathrina Bianca Sison from Miriam College High School; Alexandria "Alex" Murase from Elizabeth Seton School; Justine Ashley Steier from St. Joseph's College; Stephanie Afzelius and Paulyn "Pau" Yyza Quiza from St. Scholastica's College Manila; and Harmonique Anne "Monique" de Leon from Stella Maris College.

Last year's TAC successfully upheld Avon's cause for breast cancer awareness through exposure trips, creative workshops and news posters. They also took part in the three-kilometer fun run titled "Me and My Mom Against Breast Cancer."

This year, TAC will help in the TAC scholarship program for financially constrained but highly deserving students. They will also help in the TAC website, an interactive avenue for teenagers.



AVON'S Teen Advisory Council

Public introduction

Avon introduced the new TAC last June 4 at Shiraz, Makati.

Jessica Mendoza, 14, said she was chosen to be part of the TAC because of her outgoing personality. She said she wants to explore different fields before deciding on a college major.

Mich Lagdameo, 14, described herself as approachable and trustworthy. She said she plans to take up journalism and speak up on children's issues such as prostitution and exploitation.

Jezalin Panaligan, 15, said she is a Neil Gaiman fan who is interested in music, art and psychology.

Ashley Steier, at 13 the youngest in the group, said she is interested in advertising and concerned about teen drug addiction.

At 16, Kamae de Jesus said she considers her candor and eloquence as her strengths. She wants to become a lawyer who would fight racial discrimination against Filipinos.

Fourteen-year-old Alexa Ramos said she believes her TAC experience will help her in building self-confidence. A "Harry Potter" fan, she plans to take up mass communication in college.

Mika Baron, 15, is the artist in the group. She said she wants a career in advertising as a creative director. As part of the TAC, she said she is happy she can become a positive role model for other teenagers.

Stephanie Afzelius, 16, said she wants to take up speech communication. She described herself as confident, charming and friendly. She added she wants to promote equality in the workplace and society.

A Milla Jovovich fan, Alex Murase, 15, is a liberated, confident young woman who wants to take up either business administration or law someday.

Pau Quiza, 16, is involved with the Days with the Lord and the debate team. She is also a member of the Junior Golf Association of the Philippines. She said she wants to become a newscaster.

At 15, Dani de Castro said she sings, dances, performs, plays tennis, and is part of the student council and the campus chorale. To manage her time, she believes in "compartmentalization," focusing on an area that needs attention.

Bianca Sison, 17, is the eldest of the group. She said she intends to take up either business economics or political science. She is concerned about the Philippine government and economy.

Monique de Leon, 16, is the president of the Youth for Christ in her school. She described herself as a feminist. She acts and declaims.

Exceptional

During the event, Karina Galang Fernandez, a psychology professor at the Ateneo de Manila, gave a talk on "What makes an exceptional teenager?"

Citing studies from the Columbia University, Fernandez said an exceptional teenager is an achiever who is emotionally stable; she is someone who can look at the positive side of setbacks. She fulfills three requirements: she is self-motivated and can see the worth in what she does; growth-oriented; and strategy-motivated or someone who asks herself, "What am I doing wrong?"

KC Montero, the emcee, asked the girls about their fears. Most of them replied that they fear rejection from adults and losing friends. They explained that from their TAC experience, they hoped to gain new friends.

Later on, the other members expressed their fears such as failure, inability to determine their future and public embarrassment.

"What's it like to be a teenager?," they were then asked.

Alexa said that a teenager is like a "mini grown-up," eliciting laughter from the audience. "We want to prove to everyone that we have an insight. We want to speak our minds."

"We're still searching for our identity," Stephanie said.

"What concerns will you address?"

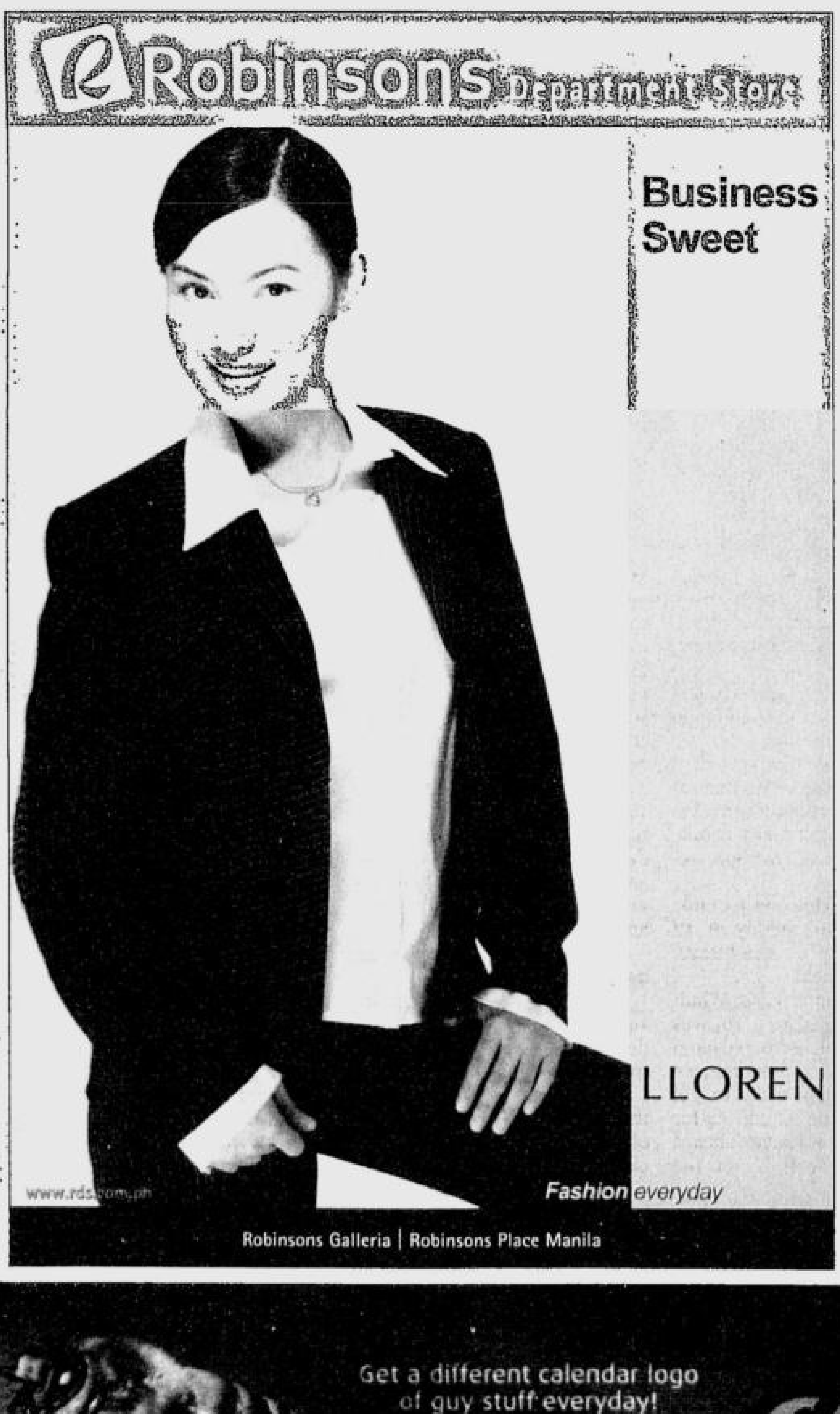
Dani said urban sanitation. Bianca said women empowerment. Jezalin said said drug addiction.

Asked about her role model, Mich replied that the 12 other TAC members had become her role models. Stephanie said that successful people who make a difference inspire her.

Asked their beauty secrets, they said exercising, not smoking, smiling, eating right, and (it was refreshing to hear this), "praying."

Asked how they handle setbacks in life, Alexa replied, "Mistakes are the ones that will make you whole."

About boyfriends, the girls agreed that it was better to have a guy for a friend instead of a boyfriend. (The parents should be relieved to hear that.)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If your interest lies in developing programs for wireless devices, then you are what we're looking for!

Join the Wireless Challenge! The first-ever, nationwide student programming competition aimed at showcasing the IT skills and capabilities of the Filipino youth in the development of specific applications for wireless devices.

Over **P650,000.00** in cash prizes await the best and the brightest IT students and P150,000.00 for the schools they represent.

Who can join?
- Filipino college students, 17 to 21 years of age
- Currently enrolled at local schools, colleges or universities within the Philippines
- Residents of the Philippines

Mechanics
- Students may form a team consisting of three (3) members
- Schools may register a maximum of two (2) teams
- Deadline for registration is on June 15, 2003
- Online elimination round is on June 30, 2003
- Final round will be from July 25 - 26, 2003

Prizes
- First Prize: P300,000.00
- Second Prize: P225,000.00
- Third Prize: P150,000.00
- Schools represented by the winners will likewise receive a prize of P50,000.00 each

To join, simply accomplish the registration form available at www.wirelesschallenge.com.ph and submit a printed copy to:

The Wireless Challenge
c/o EITSC
19/F Philippine AXA Life Center
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
1200 Metro Manila, Philippines

The Wireless Challenge is organized by the European IT Service Center (EITSC), in collaboration with the German Development Corp. (GTZ), and implemented by the Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS).

For more information, visit www.wirelesschallenge.com.ph or visit the online forum at www.msdn.ph/forums.

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She's still in love with an ex-boyfriend

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I am 15, female. I was with my ex-boyfriend for one year and seven months. He broke up with me because he found another one.

Anyway, my ex and I forgave each other and we're in good terms: I thought I've totally moved on from that heartbreak. But every time we text, I can still feel the pain and feel like crying. I have a new boyfriend now, but deep inside, I still love my ex.

Recently, my ex told me he's moving to the United States in August for college together with his new girlfriend.

I hope the day will come when I'll fall out of love with him. How will I totally forget him? How will I be able to move on if I still love him and my mind is still crowded with memories of him? How will I forget the guy who has become a big part of me? Help!

TROUBLED YANA

How can you forgive the scumbug and actually forget how he threw you to the sharks after fishing out a greater catch? Moreover, how can you still be in love with that jerk who's leaving you like a useless piece of Tarzan bubble gum wrapper, to fly to the US and go to school there with the one who replaced you?

Let me be charmed for a moment and share with you a premonition: your ex and his new girl, both blondies and with babies, perfectly happy. And you, dear, are neither in the background nor in the credits.

I shall re-ask. Why forgive and still be in love with Mr. Ex? That's the lot of many people who actually are in love, or at least think so. They forgive, selectively forget, and find it difficult to move on.

Let me focus the spotlight on your present boyfriend. Gift him with happiness by granting him freedom since you're totally being unfair to him (you know what I mean) or try to love him the way you love Mr. Ex, or even more. Continuing your present relationship will only equal to cheating if the one who summons elephants to play hopscotch on your chest is your previous bonfire.

Moving on is probably the hardest thing to accomplish for those who've recently gone to Splitsville. Letting things unfold at their own pace is ideal, but it wouldn't hurt to actively take part in hastening the process.

Go buy the new album of the Sex Bomb Dancers. Record Meteor Garden every day. Advertently forget your ex by keeping busy and by developing other interests, infatuations and obsessions. It's a healing process. Mathematically speaking, letting go + moving on = healing.

MARK

How to get over an ex in 10 days:

- Rid yourself of any rebound relationship. Translation: Stop tagging along your current boyfriend while you are still mooning over your ex. Work out your love life problems one at a time, and with "letting go" and "moving on" as the most pressing items in your to-do list, it would be better for you to focus on these issues first.

- Remind yourself of everything about your ex that annoyed—and still annoys—you. While he has a lot of wonderful qualities that made you fall in love with him, now is definitely not the right time to reminisce about them. Hey, maybe all you need to do is to look at a picture of him with his girlfriend to convince you that he's not the right guy. Oh, and yes, he's going with her to America.

- Let pride rear its ugly head once in a while—and this is quite easy to do. If you never forget the fact that he dumped you, turning grief and heartbreak into well-deserved anger would be relatively painless. It's simply a matter of converting energy into something that is more beneficial to you.

- Enjoy the distractions that schoolwork and social life bring you. Nurturing little celebrity crushes could provide an outlet for your bouts of romanticism, and actually paying attention to your Math and Science lessons will use up energy that could have been spent in futility mourning over a finished love affair.

These steps are the result of numerous self-observations and, so far, they have proven to be effective for me. The guarantee doesn't cover the 10 days, though, as people cope with heartbreak at different paces.

SEP

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0568, Series of 2003

Freeway's got G!

The spunky model-actress-Hollywood dreamer is a perfect choice to endorse the trendy brand

Text and photos by Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

G at the post-lauch bash at Famous

WHILE the luscious models were busy with their rehearsals, with some still having their hair teased and make-up done, I looked around the room, watching the busy Team Freeway, under the wings of advertising boutique S2G, getting geared up for the big launch set to start in 30 minutes.

There, standing near the comfy sofas of Greenbelt's MyCinema, I saw G Tongi. She was sporting a black spaghetti stretch top, folded-up jeans and sexy white pumps.

Even without makeup, G was radiant and elegant. She looked simple but spunky, with a strong sense of personal style and flair.

I knew then and there that Freeway made the right move in choosing this exotic Swiss-Filipina beauty to promote its label in Manila's ultra-competitive retail

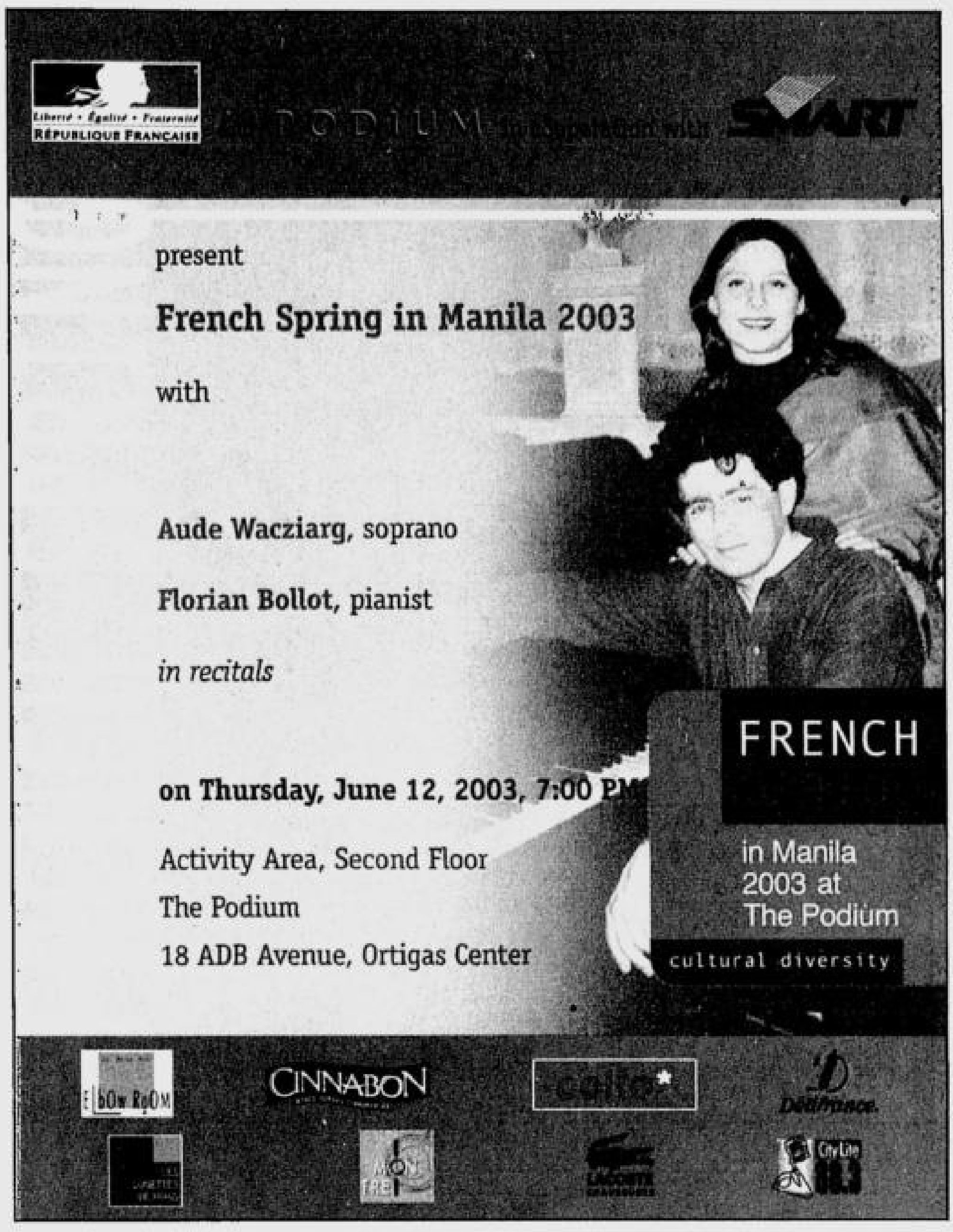
FREEWAY'S/ F4

this WEEK
@ SM SUPERMALLS

an Acoustic afternoon with
blue ketchup
June 12
3 pm
Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A

Special thanks:
HYCO
HYUNDAI
MEGA PACKAGING CORPORATION
ACRE MANUFACTURING CORP.

SM City BICUTAN



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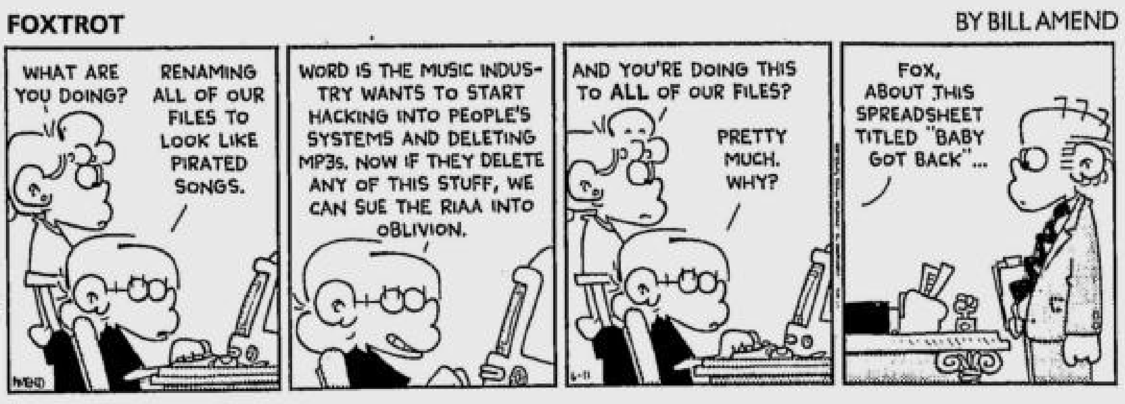
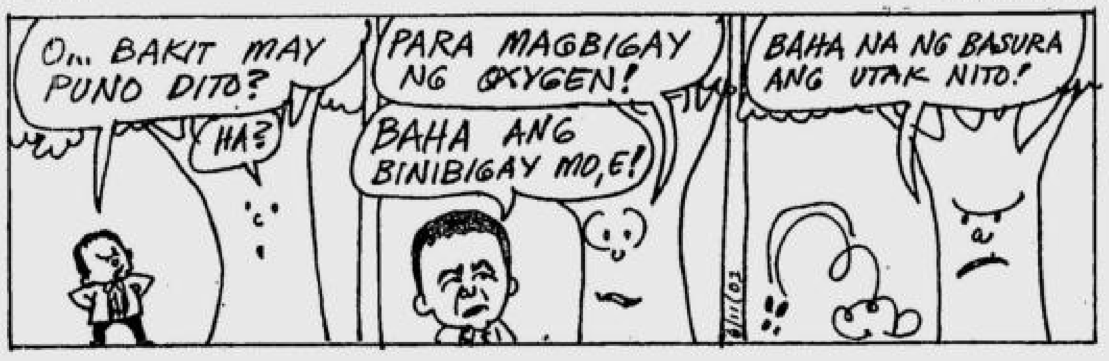
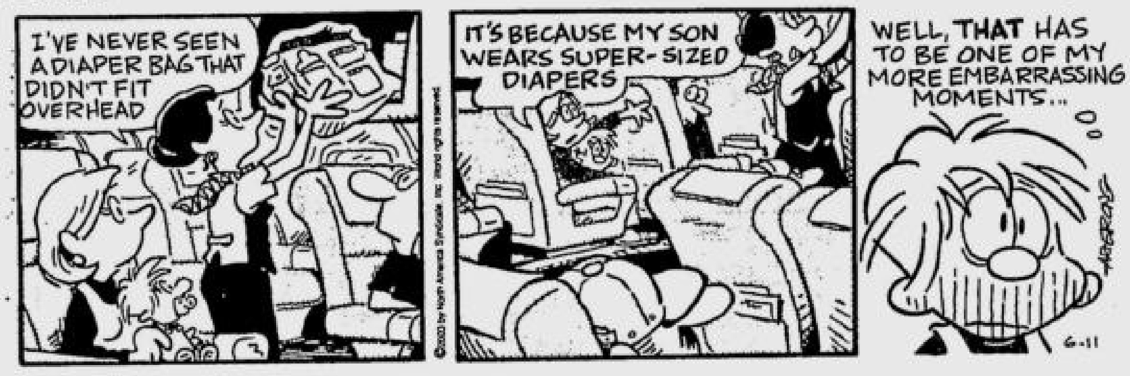

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
RENAMING ALL OF OUR FILES TO LOOK LIKE PIRATED SONGS.
WORD IS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY WANTS TO START HACKING INTO PEOPLE'S SYSTEMS AND DELETING MP3s. NOW IF THEY DELETE ANY OF THIS STUFF, WE CAN SUE THE RIAA INTO OBLIVION.
AND YOU'RE DOING THIS TO ALL OF OUR FILES?
PRETTY MUCH. WHY?
FOX, ABOUT THIS SPREADSHEET TITLED "BABY GOT BACK"...

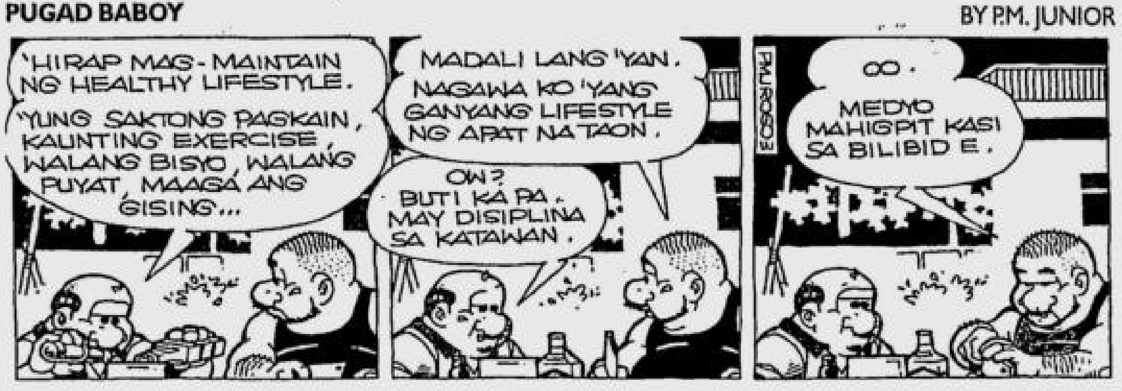
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT MAY PUNO DITO?
HA?
PARA MAGBIGAY NG OXYGEN!
BAHA ANG BINIBIGAY MO, E!
BAHA NA NG BASURA ANG UTAK NITO!

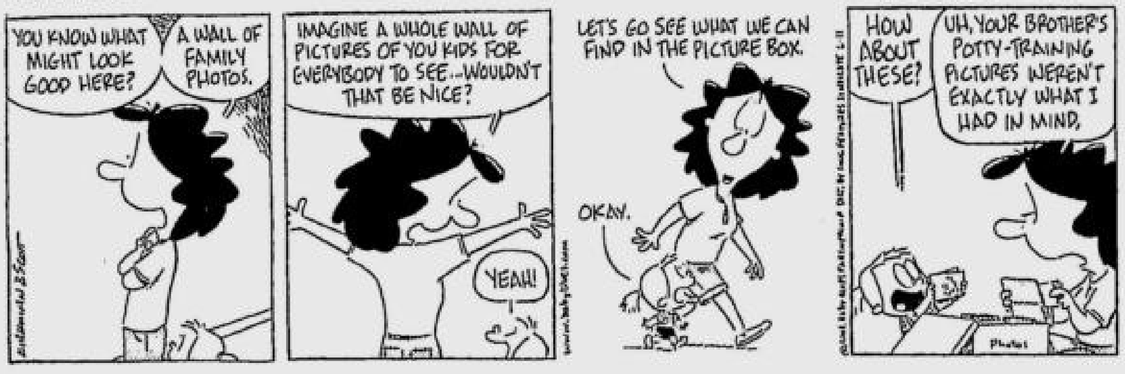
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'VE NEVER SEEN A DIAPER BAG THAT DIDN'T FIT OVERHEAD
IT'S BECAUSE MY SON WEARS SUPER-SIZED DIAPERS
WELL, THAT HAS TO BE ONE OF MY MORE EMBARRASSING MOMENTS...

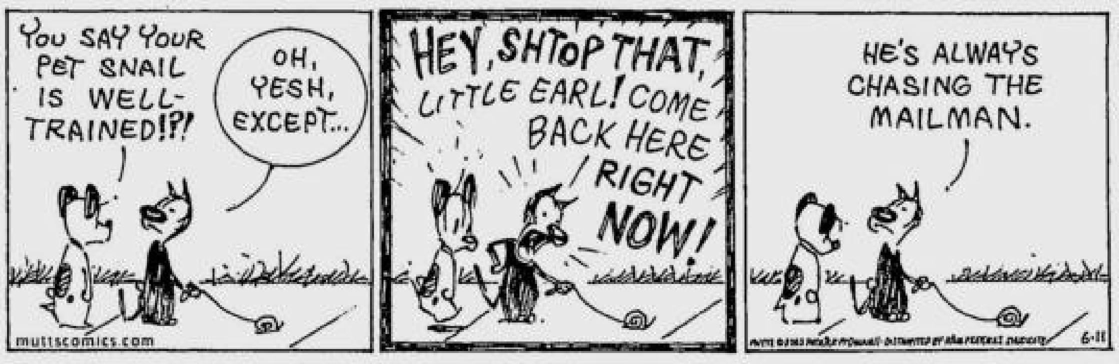
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


'HIRAP MAG-MAINTAIN NG HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.
'YUNG SAKTONG PAGKAIN, KAUNTING EXERCISE, WALANG BISYO, WALANG PUYAT, MAAGA ANG GISING...
MADALI LANG 'YAN. NAGAWA KO 'YANG GANYANG LIFESTYLE NG APAT NA TAON.
OW? BUTI KA PA. MAY DISIPLINA SA KATAWAN.
OO. MEDYO MAHIGPIT KASI SA BILIBID E.

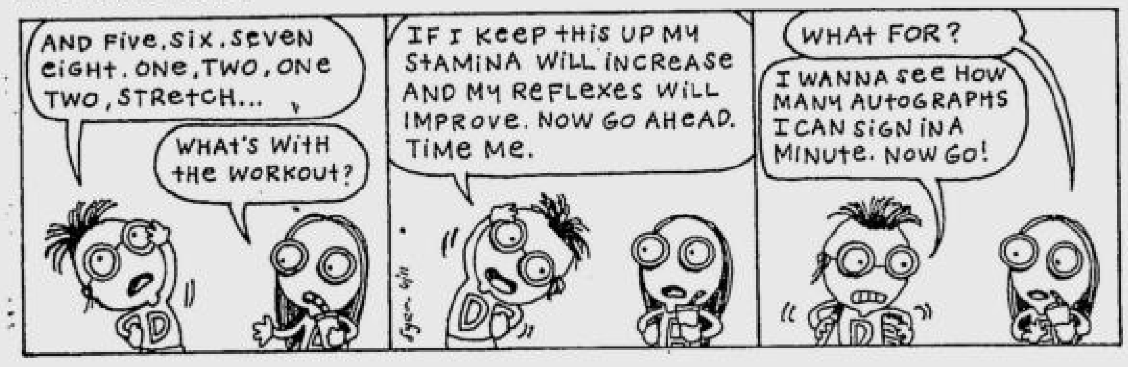
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU KNOW WHAT MIGHT LOOK GOOD HERE?
A WALL OF FAMILY PHOTOS.
IMAGINE A WHOLE WALL OF PICTURES OF YOU KIDS FOR EVERYBODY TO SEE.-WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?
YEAH!
LET'S GO SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND IN THE PICTURE BOX.
OKAY.
HOW ABOUT THESE?
UH, YOUR BROTHER'S POTTY-TRAINING PICTURES WEREN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

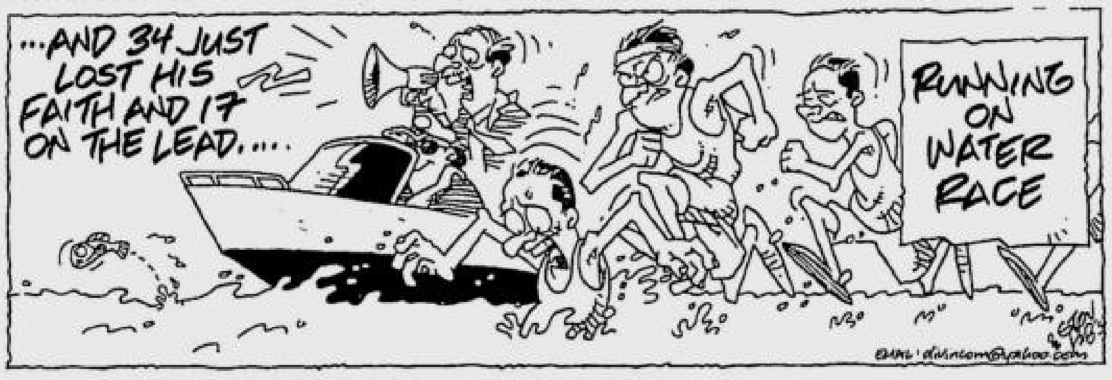
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU SAY YOUR PET SNAIL IS WELL-TRAINED!?!
OH, YESH, EXCEPT...
HEY, SHTOP THAT, LITTLE EARL! COME BACK HERE RIGHT NOW!
HE'S ALWAYS CHASING THE MAILMAN.
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND FIVE, SIX, SEVEN EIGHT. ONE, TWO, ONE TWO, STRETCH...
WHAT'S WITH THE WORKOUT?
IF I KEEP THIS UP MY STAMINA WILL INCREASE AND MY REFLEXES WILL IMPROVE. NOW GO AHEAD. TIME ME.
WHAT FOR?
I WANNA SEE HOW MANY AUTOGRAPHS I CAN SIGN IN A MINUTE. NOW GO!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


...AND 34 JUST LOST HIS FAITH AND 17 ON THE LEAD.....
RUNNING ON WATER RACE
EMAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your humor and wit constantly entertain others. Your restless nature needs regular stimulation. You hate to be bored! New places, new faces and fresh ideas intrigue you. You love to travel, whether it is far or on short trips. You will never grow old. Work hard for something you want this year, because next year is your payoff!
Birthdate of: Gene Wilder, actor; Jackie Stewart, car racer; Joe Montana, football player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today proves to be pleasantly exciting because new faces and stimulating activities bring an extra zing to your world. (You love fresh, little surprises.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It is possible to make a new friend today. If you think of strangers as friends you haven't met yet, you will be in the right frame of mind.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for getting things out in the open. You feel bold almost to the point of provoking a fight. (Don't do this if you are talking to your boss.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): New spiritual revelations might occur to you today. This might be a private moment, but nevertheless, it is a mind-expanding experience.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You definitely want excitement and stimulation in your contacts with others today. Because you're inclined to gratify your own needs now, remember to be considerate of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel highly flirtatious today! Others might feel the same way. Although this can spice up your day, don't make anything more out of an encounter like this than it really is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your desire for freedom and original ways of doing things is strong today. This is well and good, but don't steamroll over others at work to get your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A surprise gift or goodie might come your way today. It could be something significant or something as little as a free cup of coffee.

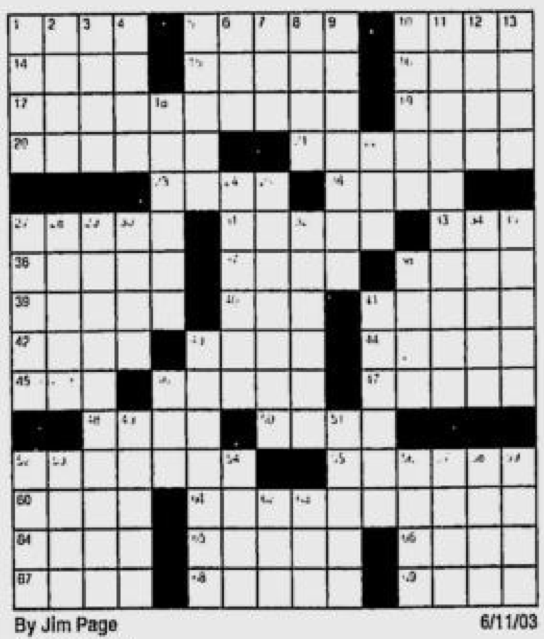
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today is a test of the flexibility of your relationships with close friends and partners. Be open to new experiences and different ways of doing things. Stay alive!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be on your toes today, because unexpected communications take you in a new direction at work. Someone unusual might pose a new challenge for you. You can handle it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Spontaneous purchases of unusual items or modern art will please you today. You're attracted to anything novel and unusual. Treat yourself to some kind of toy or gimmick, because you love these things.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Indulge your urge to do something different at home with decorating or a particular family activity. It's healthy to shake up a routine way of doing things.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jim Page
New York, NY

6/11/03

ACROSS
1 Proofer's notation
5 Viscounts' superiors
10 Some feds
14 Intangible quality
15 Piece of bric-a-brac
16 Folklore baddie
17 "60 Minutes," e.g.
19 Another fed
20 Lustrous cloth
21 Stick together again
23 Cook novel
26 Party greeter
27 Faux pas
31 Famed fabulist
33 Exploit
36 Judges' garments
37 Ship's company
38 Some poems
39 Met songs
40 90 degrees from vert.
41 Promontory
42 Head the cast
43 Allison of jazz
44 Threatened layer
45 Hawaii's ocean: abbr.
46 Bricklayer
47 Actor Romero
48 Precinct
50 "Fiesque" composer
52 Notre Dame location
55 Bestial person
60 Spotted
61 Crime-scene work-up
64 Doctrines
65 __ bear
66 Kermit, for one
67 Eyelid sore
68 Wiggly
69 Montand of "Z"

DOWN
1 Pouchlike structures
2 Big brass?
3 Once, once
4 Dash finish
5 Bargain model: pref.
6 Dog days mo.
7 Grammar-sch. trio
8 Half a Carrey movie?
9 One way or another
10 Forum dress
11 Hollywood lot?
12 Part of QED
13 Aloha State bird
18 Playtime
22 Soft drink
24 Overly manly men
25 Spray can
27 Get a hold on
28 Big vessel
29 School for 19A
30 Phobia
32 Williams of tennis
34 Medicinal bush
35 Fragrant compound
38 Run like molasses
41 Mount __, PA
43 Kettle pair
46 __ culpa (Sorry 'bout that)
49 Hose off
51 Writer McMurtry
52 Egyptian goddess
53 Nutcracker suite?
54 Shortly
56 Doubtful
57 ICBM type
58 __ vera
59 Tripod parts
62 Optional rte.
63 _ de deux

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	A	B		W	A	G	E	S		T	I	M	S
B	O	L	E		A	D	O	R	E		E	S	A	U
A	M	I	D		L	E	O	N	A		A	N	N	E
C	A	S	T	L	E		D	I	V	E	R	T	E	D
A	N	T	I	S		S	N	E	E	R	S			
			M	U	F	T	I		H	O	O	T	E	D
A	P	S	E		H	A	G	S		S	N	A	R	E
L	E	A	F		A	T	H	O	S		M	R	I	S
O	R	L	O	P		E	T	N	A		Y	A	N	K
T	I	E	R	R	A		L	E	G	U	P			
			B	O	R	E	A	S		P	I	P	E	S
A	C	C	O	S	T	E	D		S	I	L	E	N	T
M	O	O	N		I	R	I	S	H		L	E	D	A
A	R	I	Z		S	I	E	G	E		O	V	E	N
H	A	L	O		T	E	S	T	S		W	E	D	S

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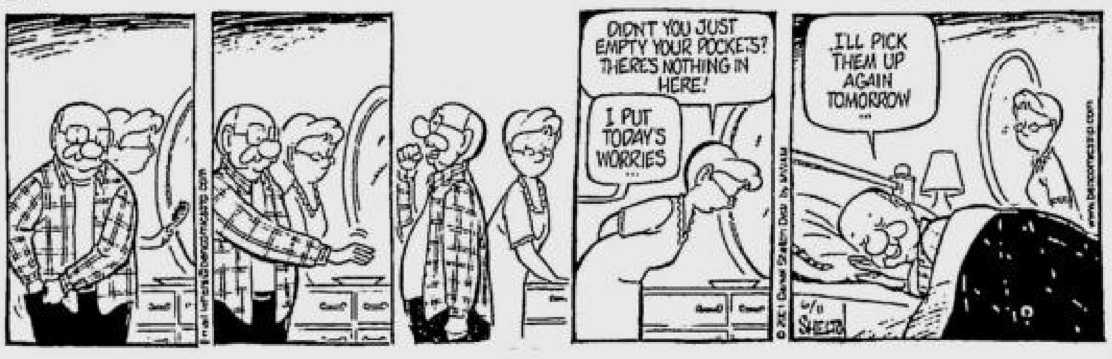
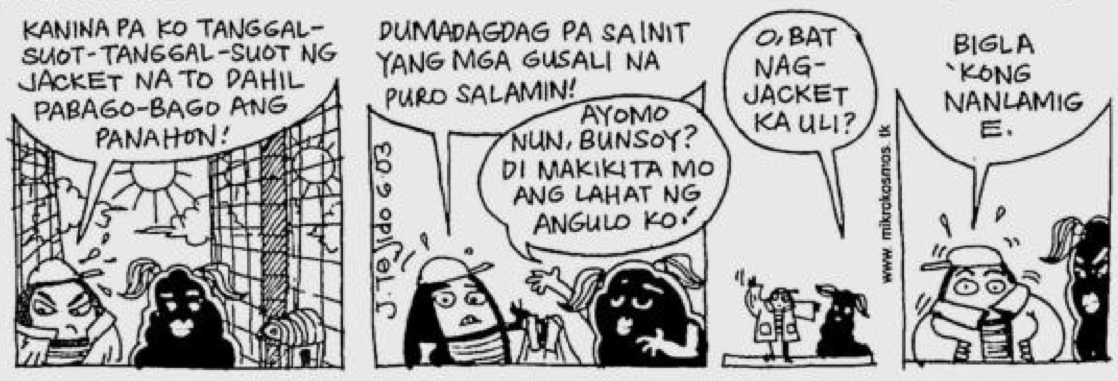
6/11/03

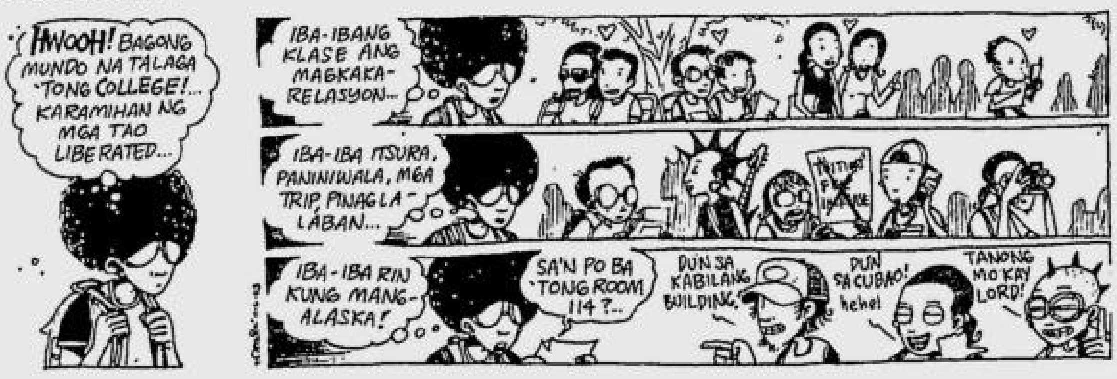
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


DIDN'T YOU JUST EMPTY YOUR POCKETS? THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE!
I PUT TODAY'S WORRIES ...
I'LL PICK THEM UP AGAIN TOMORROW ...

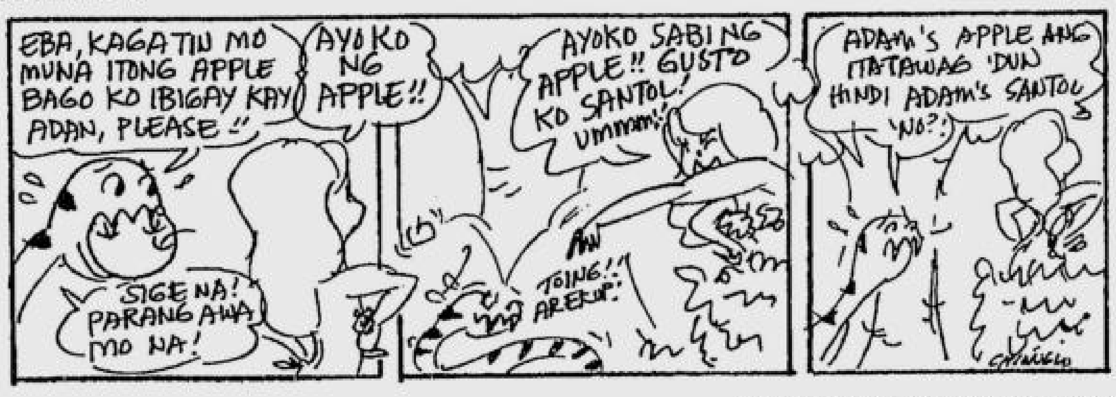
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KANINA PA KO TANGGAL-SUOT-TANGGAL-SUOT NG JACKET NA TO DAHIL PABAGO-BAGO ANG PANAHON!
DUMADAGDAG PA SA INIT YANG MGA GUSALI NA PURO SALAMIN!
AYOMO NUN, BUNSOY? DI MAKIKITA MO ANG LAHAT NG ANGULO KO!
O, BAT NAG-JACKET KA ULI?
BIGLA 'KONG NANLAMIG E.
www.mikrokosmos.tk

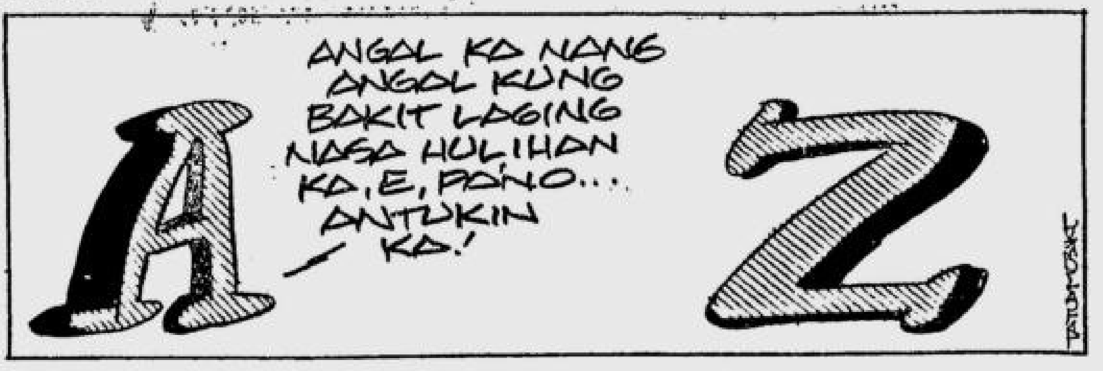
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! BAGONG MUNDO NA TALAGA 'TONG COLLEGE!... KARAMIHAN NG MGA TAO LIBERATED...
IBA-IBANG KLASE ANG MAGKAKA-RELASYON...
IBA-IBA ITSURA, PANINIWALA, MGA TRIP, PINAGLALABAN...
IBA-IBA RIN KUNG MANG-ALASKA!
SA'N PO BA 'TONG ROOM 114?..
DUN SA KABILANG BUILDING.
DUN SA CUBAO! hehe!
TANONG MO KAY LORD!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


EBA, KAGATIN MO MUNA ITONG APPLE BAGO KO IBIGAY KAY ADAN, PLEASE!!
AYOKO NG APPLE!!
SIGE NA! PARANG AWA MO NA!
AYOKO SABI NG APPLE!! GUSTO KO SANTOL! UMMM!
AW
TOING!! AREKUP!
ADAM'S APPLE ANG ITATAWAG 'DUN HINDI ADAM'S SANTOL, 'NO?!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANGAL KA NANG ANGAL KUNG BAKIT LAGING NASA HULIHAN KA, E, PANO... ANTUKIN KA!

Conquer life after college

THE JUNE issue of Seventeen Philippines is packed with smart advice about school, life and relationships.

Its Life Guide is a special new magazine-in-a-magazine that features inspiring ideas, real-life stories, and answers to your most urgent questions.

Seventeen
ROCK TO SCHOOL

For instance, it has tips on how to conquer life after college *even* while still in school. The secret, it says, lies in making and nurturing the right connections:

Be org-iastic. Participate in organizations with great passion and you won't go unrecognized. Everyone starts out as a member, but not everyone is able to push themselves to the next level. Choose an organization based on your interests and skills, and not necessarily on its popularity with your peers.

Get a head start. Most college freshmen avoid orgs like the plague because, according to them, they might "interfere" with academic responsibilities. In reality, it's because they fear upperclassmen.

But older students have better things to do than torment you. In fact, they help you cope with academic responsibilities better.

(Bonus: If you're active in an org early, it's easier to run for office the next year, and that always looks good on your resumé!)

Volunteer to lead. Run for a position that has something to do with public relations, marketing, or events if you really feel that you can't handle president or simply head a project. This will allow you to work in close contact with "outside forces" such as sponsors, advertisers, and media people, and expand your network of possibilities.

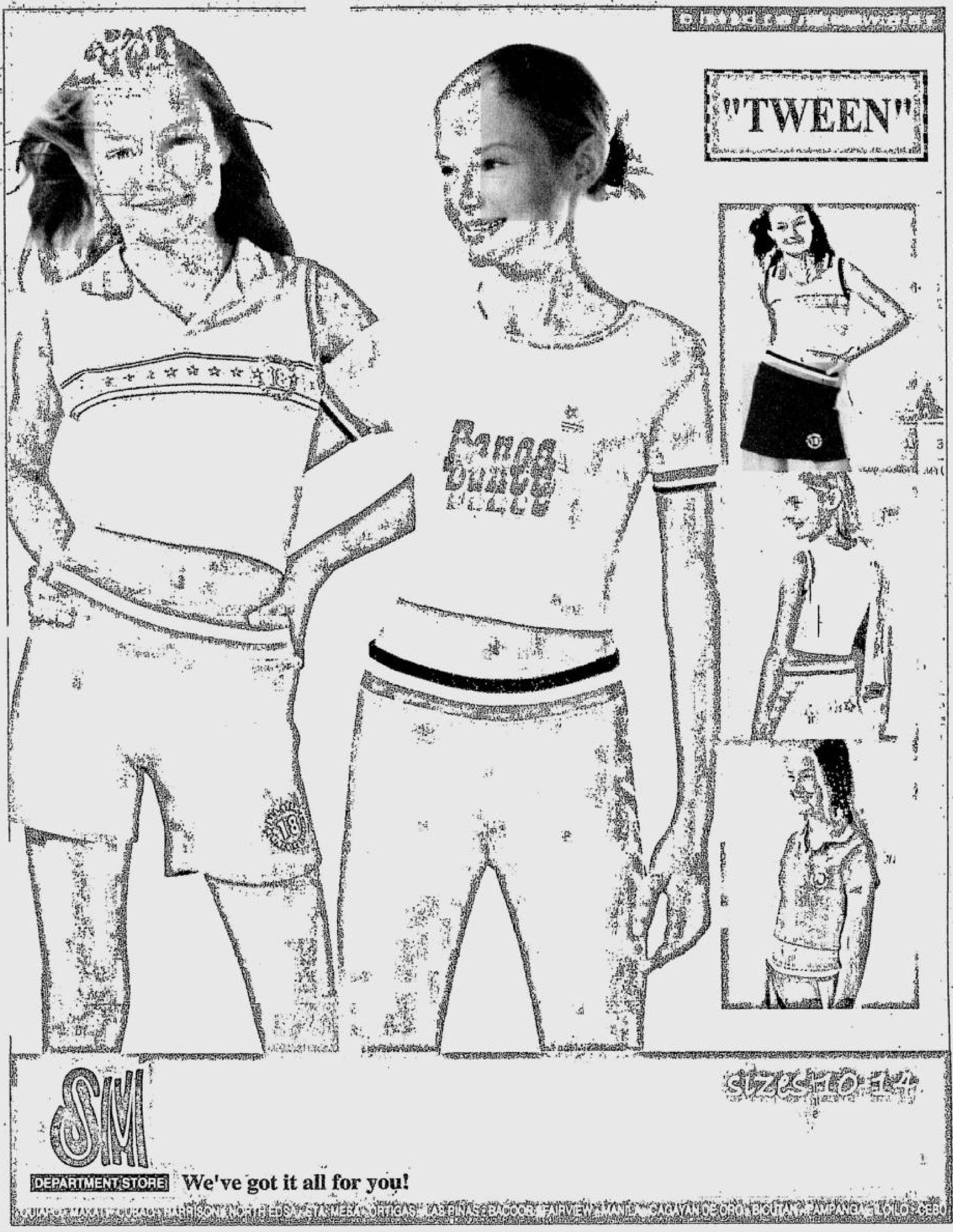
Go on on-the-job training. work for a company you're interested in, whether or not you're required to. It will buff up your resumé and your experience quotient as well. While it is good to know certain people and certain companies, it's always much better if they know you and your work as well.

Keep in touch with your friends and take interest in their activities and future plans while you are busy pursuing your own. Be supportive of their projects and causes, and participate if you can. Who knows, your geek-of-a-dorm mate could be a multimillionaire/celebrity in the works.

Be Miss Congeniality. You'll never know whose help you might need in the future, so be nice. Being nice, though, doesn't mean bending over backward like it's fun.

Be pleasant, but at the same time, let them know that you have a sense of self that you are most capable of asserting.

Seventeen Philippines' June issue has Barbie Almabis of Barbie's Cradle on the cover. It is available at your favorite magazine shops and bookstores at P95 per copy.



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Freeway's got G!

From page F1

fashion industry.

Even when pitted against some of the famous and well-established American endorsers of other local clothing labels, G can certainly put up a fight with those distinct and familiar Eurasian qualities we've always adored in her.

Got grace?

Sassy, with a lot of panache.

That's how Freeway's new image model described the company's hip line of clothing.

When asked why she accepted the invitation to model for the brand, G said she believed in Freeway. "I've never attached myself to brands that I don't believe in, especially because I've worked so hard to get to where I am right now… I would never sell out and compromise my integrity."

G takes center stage.

Even in L.A., where she stays for the most part of the year, G regularly wears her favorite top and other pieces from Freeway.

She said people consistently complimented her on her proudly Philippine-made wardrobe. *"Ganito yung tipong damit na puwede mong suotin,* like if you want to go on a night out with friends, to the movies, to clubs, or even just to dinner."

Never a sucker for trends, G admitted that she's the type of person who wants to be different every time. The moment everyone starts wearing white pumps, her pair would be well buried in her cabinet. That's why she loves Freeway's unique, trendy clothes.

Sheree Gotuaco, the young owner of Freeway, Ensembles, 22BC and Solo, (she calls them her children), added that G fits the brand best. "She's daring, she naturally dresses the Freeway style, and she carries herself very well."

True enough, come showtime, G didn't disappoint. Everyone inside that private cinema was lucky to have caught a mini-fashion show and a well-directed and choreographed promotional video of G.

FREEWAY owner Sheree Gotuaco and G during pre-launch preparations

Got game?

Even as she flies back and forth between L.A. and Manila, and her schedule is always fully booked with interviews, pictorials, shoots, guestings in shows and what have you, G still manages to beat the pressure and keep her sanity intact.

In her spare time, she does yoga, watches movies and reads books. This is one girl who certainly knows what it means to really work hard, and party hard.

G not only looks great, she also has the brains and character of a strong and principled woman.

There are a lot of admirable things about her that local entertainment news has failed to mention thus far. For example, many people have questioned G's decision to seek her fortune in the United States at the peak of her career in Manila. But she has persevered. Now managed by an agency, she's been busy with auditions for lead roles and supporting roles in both television and film.

On the side, she works part-time as a bartender and waitress, the kind of work that some haughty celebrities would certainly refuse.

But taking the challenges and harsh realities she faces in L.A. in stride, the determined and goal-driven G continues to work to achieve her dream. She could have it easy anytime in Manila, but instead, she chooses to take the road less traveled.

Got glam?

After the launch, we all proceeded to Famous, where G mixed up martinis for the crowd. Glasses were overflowing with mango, lychee, *dalandan*, *calamansi* and even *buko* martini!

All the models were there, together with Team Freeway and the S2G crew, relaxing and unwinding after much stress and blood-sweating work.

It was a celebration that reeked not only of liquor and cigarettes, but of well-earned and well-deserved success.

G's family also dropped by to give their moral support. Hordes of cameramen, photographers and interviewers continued to stream in to have their exclusive moment with G.

Even if tired and drained, G continued to work the room to make everyone feel comfortable. Whether it was a model, celebrity, non-celebrity, makeup artist, friend, or a stranger she was greeting, G was indiscriminate in sharing herself with everyone.

And for that, she's tops on my list as one of the most down-to-earth, honest and real women I've met in my work with 2bU!

G mixes drinks for the crowd.

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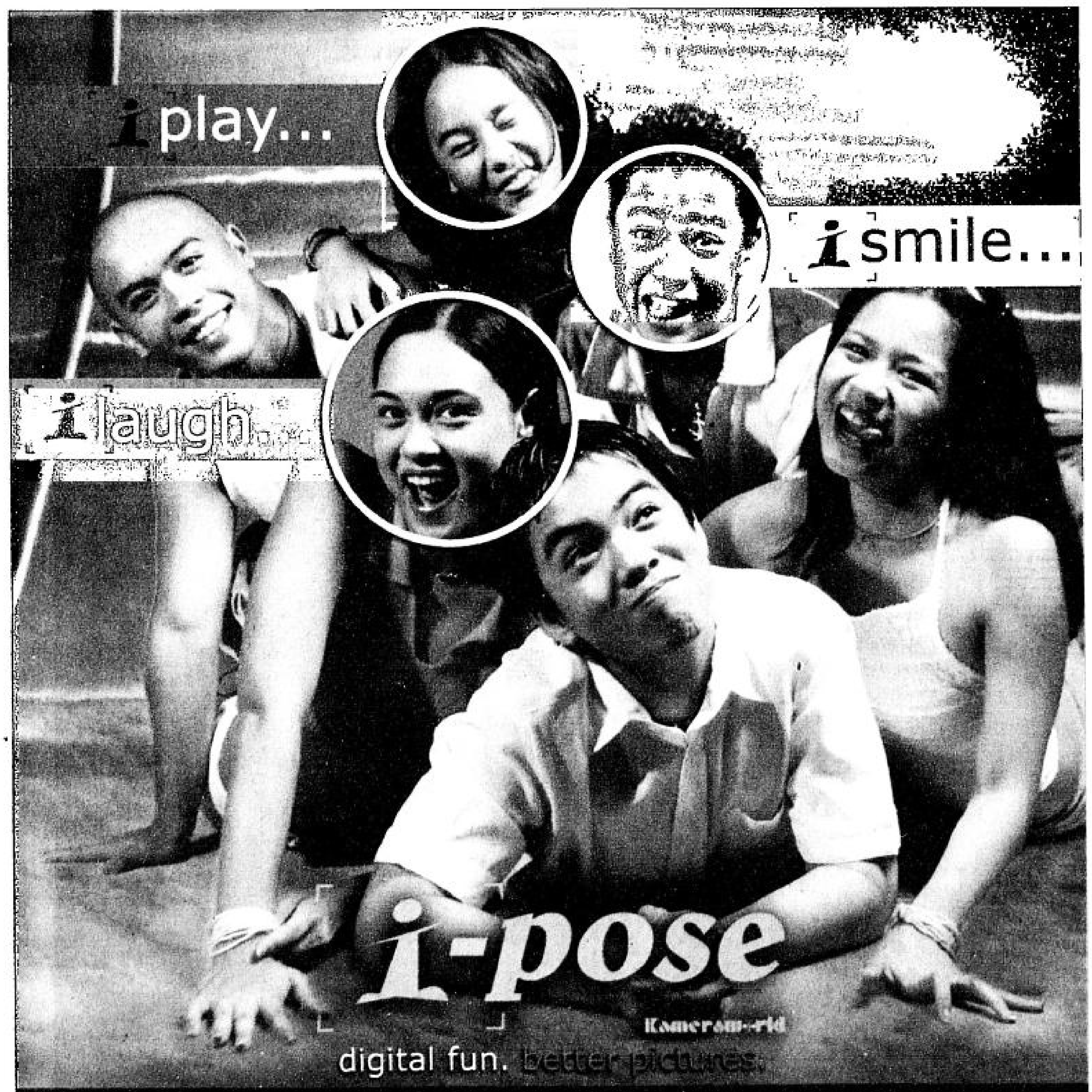
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